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'ARAFAT MEETS WITH IRANIAN TUDEH PARTY DELEGATION

NC220746 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to Arab World 0645 GMT 22 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has received an Iranian Tudeh Party delegation led by Comrade Mohammad 'Ali, Politburo member, who handed him a message from Tudeh Party Secretary General Comrade Kianuri.

During the meeting, they reviewed the situation in the area and discussed strengthening the cohesion between the Iranian and Palestinian revolutions.

VOP: 'ARAFAT CHAIRS HIGHER MILITARY COUNCIL MEETING

NC211848 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1515 GMT 21 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar today chaired a meeting of the Palestinian revolution Higher Military Council. Our correspondent has learned that the council studied the situation, the development of events and the implementation of the tasks given to the various committees to carry out work in the branch commands. The council adopted a number of important decisions.

DPFLP'S HAWATIMAH ON RELATIONS WITHIN PLO, TIES WITH USSR

LD210957 Paris AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI in Arabic 18-24 Feb 80 pp 24-26 LD

[Interview given to Nihad al-Mashnuq by Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DPFLP)--date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] The Democratic Front is reproaching Fatah for contacting Western forces while the front itself is contacting Israeli leftist forces. In the Arab sphere, the Front is adopting a disconcerting stand vis-a-vis relations with Libya. How do you define the Front's relations with Fatah and the PLO?

[Answer] With regard to the PLO, the DPFLP adopted a unitary democratic stand within the framework of the PLO from the very beginning of its armed struggle. This has been our constant and firm stand on the basis of which we presented the 1973 program before the October War, calling for Arab and international recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and defining our people's rights during that phase--the right to return, the right to self-determination and the right to an independent state. That program became the general program of the PLO in June 1974 and was consecrated at the Rabat summit and at the Arab summits that followed. It was under the banner of this program that the PLO entered the United Nations as an observer member. We believe that this program played a basic and enormous role in shaping the PLO's Arab and international standing.

As for the second point, the alliance between us and Fatah has constituted a firm course in our policy since the start of our struggle. This alliance bore the brunt of our people's struggle during the first years. This firm policy stems from an understanding of the strategy of our people's struggle and national rights throughout the phase of national liberation until the program for return, self-determination and the establishment of an independent state in our country is achieved.

During the phase of national liberation we believe in the need for alliance and solidarity among all of our people's national classes which have an interest in returning, in determing their own fate, in establishing an independent state and in liquidating occupation, colonization and annexation plans, whether these are in the form of a self-administration rule in line with the capitulationist Camp David agreements or in the form of the united Arab kingdom which would be carried out at the expense of our people's right to crystallize their independent national identy within the framework of a completely sovereign state of their own.

It is on this basis that our view of the alliance with all the revolutionary groups, particularly Fatah, is a firm strategic one. The phase of national liberation takes years. However, this does not mean that we and Fatah share identical attitudes toward developments in the struggle and proposed solutions to these issues. Indeed, many of our attitudes differ and are sometimes contradictory, but they remain secondary contradictions.

Therefore, we advocate and have struggled for wider recognition in the ranks of the capitalist Western states and we will continue to do so. However, we have warned and continue to warn against pinning any illusionary hopes on the Western camp states. We are well aware of brother Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] work and the results of his meetings with Kreisky and a number of West European countries. These forces are asking us to recognize the Egyptian-Israeli treaty on the grounds that it is a fait accompli. They consider this treaty a step forward on the road to solving the Arab-Israeli conflict and believe that the Palestinian aspect in the Camp David agreements ought to be developed. The last advice in this direction came from the Portuguese foreign minister during the Lisbon international conference for solidarity with the Palestinian people.

It is for this reason that we have warned against this negative aspect while understanding the positive aspects of enhancing the prestige of the PLO and what is sometimes said about a Palestinian dialog with the U.S. administration. We have continuously and clearly stated that there is no dialog with that administration because it has propounded the Camp David agreement as a solution to our people's issue. It is usurping our people's right and proposing a liquidationist solution within the framework of self-rule under occupation with all the dangers this involves in the imposition of the fait accompli policy on the West Bank and in the Gaza sector.

Regarding the last point on the PDFLP's contacts with Israeli leftist forces, we very clearly say: We extend our hand to any force that is against Zionism and Israeli colonialism within Israeli society. There are forces which actually adopt a political line based on recognizing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of our people and the Palestinian people's right to regain their national soil and determine their own fate, sometimes defining these as the Palestinian territories which were occupied in June 1967.

Our front and these forces have begun a joint struggle against Zionism as a policy, organization and ideology as well as against Israeli expansion.

[Question] What is your position regarding Arab relations and the incident with Libya?

[Answer] The DPFLP is for the establishment of Palestinian-Arab relations that vary in degree according to each regime's attitude toward our revolution, our people's national rights and our right to formulate an independent Palestinian national decision without any trusteeship, restriction or pressure.

It is on this basis that we have dealt with the problems that have arisen between the Libyan leadership and the brothers in Fatah. We did not go along with any side at the expense of the principle governing our policy and the revolution's relations with Libya. We view the dispute as a secondary one which should not for a single moment prevail over the exigencies of mobilizing Palestinian-Libyan capabilities within the framework of the Front of Steadfastness against the enemy, the Camp David agreements, the As-Sadat-Begin treaty and the self-administration rule.

Therefore, we have worked to contain the dispute in order to mobilize the forces against the enemy and to protect the forces of steadfastness.

[Question] The slogans of noninterference and independent decision are shared with Fatah, but the dispute with Libya occurred under these slogans.

[Answer] The leadership in Libya called for the formation of committees within the Palestinian community. Let us suppose for argument's sake that the Libyan leadership wanted to form a special political organization close to it through these committees. That is not new because the Ba'th party in Damascus and Baghdad has its organized Palestinian formations and extensions inside the resistance.

The ideal thing is not to have any problems. But when a problem does occur, it should be resolved with a spirit of unity and without any attempts to dominate by any form of interference, tutelage or containment.

A final point, the question of independence [of decisionmaking] is indivisible in the policy of the revolution or any force that seriously safeguards this independence. It is our right to struggle to protect independence of decisionmaking against the interferences of the Arab capitals. This also applies to all forms of our Arab, Islamic and international relations. In certain flagrant cases we notice cunning attempts being made to influence decisions through pressure by certain Arab states. Take for example the Palestinian leadership's decision not to attend the Islamabad conference. We were later surprised by a unilateral action and the attendance at the conference of a PLO representative as an observer. The level and nature of representation is not important; what is important is the principle.

All this happened without the knowledge of the overwhelming majority of the Palestinian leadership and the PLO Executive Committee. Thus, the independent decision we had made came to nothing.

[Question] In the Palestinian arena there are reservations regarding Soviet policy, including the Soviet refusal to supply the PLO with heavy weapons and the fact that the Soviet Union was the first state to ask the PLO to recognize Israel. What is the strategic view of the relationship with the Soviets?

[Answer] Soviet-Palestinian relations are measured by a number of interlinked political and material factors. Throughout recent years the Soviet Union and the other socialist states have been adopting a political stand, recognizing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and our right to return, to self-determination and to an independent state. This is the highest form of solidarity with the cause of our people and the PLO. Meanwhile, to date the United States refuses to recognize our people's rights and proposes the Camp David capitulationist solutions to our issue. Therefore, it is not right to equate the socialist camp, which is adopting our cause, and the United States, which is disavowing the PLO and our people's rights and completely obliterating the rights of two-thirds of our people--"the refugees"--to return to their homeland in accordance with the UN General Assembly resolutions and the 1948 Security Council Resolution 191, which was endorsed by the United States, and compensation for those who do not wish to return.

Therefore, it is not right to consider the matter from one angle only--the fact that the Soviets are not giving us modern heavy weapons. This matter is on the agenda of joint discussions between the PLO and the Soviet Union. We certainly must struggle relentlessly to solve this issue in favor of the PLO to obtain developed heavy weapons.

However, we must answer in a manly manner the big question: Who is more suitable to furnish us with modern heavy weapons? The Soviet Union or the Arab states? The saying goes: Those close to us are more worthy of doing a favor. Therefore, those close to us whose warehouses are replete with all kinds of modern heavy weapons should give these weapons to the revolution to enable it to stand in the face of the enemy.

[Question] Do you believe that there is a new Soviet offensive policy in the Middle East because of the need for oil?

[Answer] First of all I would like to ask: Where is this Soviet offensive policy in the Middle East? In practice it does not exist on the map. Soviet policy in the Middle East is still defensive and nothing else in view of the fact that the balance of power in the area has been upset following As-Sadat's treason, which increased after the October War until it was legalized by the Camp David agreements.

OMAN

MINISTER ZAWAWI GIVES VIEWS ON MIDEAST, NATIONAL ISSUES

NC210930 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 18 Feb 80 pp 18-25 NC

[Interview granted to MONDAY MORNING journalist Claude Khoury "last week" in Muscat by Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Qais 'Abd al-Munim Zawawi; interview conducted in English]

[Text] [Question] U.S. Republican presidential hopeful Ronald Reagan charged recently that the Soviet Union was training its "Cuban proxies" in South Yemen for a takeover of Oman. How well-founded do you think his fears are?

[Answer] I have not heard of Mr. Reagan's charge, but I think it is no longer a secret that the Soviet Union has escalated military presence in South Yemen and is using its Cuban proxy forces as well as various advisors from Cuba and East Germany, with the result that the Soviet Union is now in full control of the South Yemeni Army and police.

We do feel the danger and would therefore not rule out South Yemen's ill intentions toward the Sultanate.

I would also like to add that the possibility of a threat from South Yemen is something about which Oman has always been and will continue to be alert.

[Question] So you do feel that there may be a South Yemeni attempt at a takeover of Oman through Cuban proxies?

[Answer] We do not rule out the possibility of them planning, with their friends from the Soviet Union and the proxy countries, to threaten the security of Oman by using surrogate forces, but we hope they will not achieve this intention of theirs, and at the same time we say that we will continue to be alert.

[Question] Do you expect this threat to the security of Oman to be posed in the near future?

[Answer] According to our present information, and judging by the expansion that has taken place in the north, in Afghanistan, South Yemen will perhaps concentrate on another sector--most probably North Yemen--at this stage. This is a possibility. But their strategy--if we knew it, we would be so much wiser.

[Question] You say you are alert. How do you think the threat can be averted?

[Answer] We will use all possible forces at our disposal to prevent such a thing from happening.

[Question] What forces are you referring to?

[Answer] Omani forces. All the time.

[Question] How many Cuban soldiers and military instructors do you believe are in South Yemen?

[Answer] As far as numbers are concerned, they change from time to time, so one can have no definite figure. We will be only too happy if we can get some friends to help us assess the size of the threat.

[Question] You have absolutely no idea of the numbers involved?

[Answer] The information tends to vary from time to time--from 3,000 to 5,000 Cuban troops and advisors, from 200 to 400 East German militias or officers; and anything between 100 and 200 Russians.

[Question] The United States has gone on record saying that to defend the Gulf, its oil and its oil trade routes--including the Hormuz Strait--it "cannot keep a permanent naval presence in the area without access to shore facilities for resupply and reconnaissance." Is Oman ready to offer such facilities?

[Answer] Oman has received requests from the United States of America for certain facilities that the United States would like to be given in Oman. These facilities are matters which we have still not discussed fully with the United States. We are at a stage of exchanging ideas and views on this subject, as to how vast (these facilities should be), what exactly would be needed and for how long.

Therefore, it is too early at this stage for Oman to state whether facilities will be granted. (We cannot say anything on this subject) until such time as we actually are able to determine the size of these facilities and the length of time that they will be required by the United States or any friendly country.

At this point, I would like to emphasize that at no time will Oman permit any foreign bases on its soil, be the request from the United States of America or any other country.

[Question] U.S. officials stated recently that Oman has agreed to provide the U.S. with military facilities. Could you confirm that?

[Answer] Discussions have taken place, but detailed discussions and decisions on facilities, I assure you, have not been reached.

[Question] But the possibility of Oman providing the U.S. with military facilities exists?

[Answer] That is probable, in principle, if the facilities are short-term. The length of time that they will be required, the number of areas or ports or airports that will be required--that will determine the overall decision on granting these facilities. They may be smaller or larger, depending upon the requirements and how we see these facilities being able to assist the regional security of this whole area --not Oman's security alone.

[Question] Where would these facilities be?

[Answer] If we had pinpointed any areas, I would have been only too glad to inform you, but at this stage, we have not yet talked about any specific areas.

[Question] When would these facilities be granted?

[Answer] It would definitely be in the year 1980, but there are still 10 months to go.

[Question] What would Oman's conditions be for granting those facilities?

[Answer] It depends on Oman's defense requirements, and how much Oman's armed forces would benefit from such facilities being granted and perhaps improved. It all depends on Oman's main requirements--our armament for defensive purposes. If we can obtain these armaments and hardware through friendly countries, Western countries, we will be stating so.

[Question] H. M. Sultan Qabus was reported to have asked for weapons when British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington visited Oman last month to discuss the Soviet thrust into Afghanistan. Has the West in general, and the U.S. and Britain in particular, looked seriously into Oman's arms shopping list?

[Answer] The improvement and modernization of Oman's defense forces is a matter of continued progress over the years. It does not stop and start depending upon crises.

We had already discussed the purchase of equipment with friendly countries like the United Kingdom long before the Afghanistan crisis, and therefore whatever was discussed with Lord Carrington and other senior officials from the United Kingdom was in the context of our former request for arms and improvement of our armed forces.

[Question] Were the answers positive?

[Answer] Yes, we have reached an agreement in principle with the United Kingdom on the supply of a hardware and arms set we had previously asked for.

[Question] Could you specify the nature and number of those armaments?

[Answer] They are defensive armanents. It is very difficult for any country to lay down its lists of armaments exactly.

[Question] What are the cost estimates?

[Answer] You will hear about that. There will not be any secret about the type of arms, the delivery dates and the costs, which will probably be announced toward the end of this year.

[Question] What about the United States? U.S. Officials were quoted as saying recently that Washington would grant aid in return for facilities. Can you confirm that?

[Answer] We have not heard about this officially. I'm hearing about it for the first time from you.

[Question] But the talks that are under way with the U.S.--are they positive?

[Answer] With the United States of America, we have had a dialogue on improving Oman's defensive capabilities, and that is all. But in view of the developments in Afghanistan, the strategic importance of the area obviously necessitates an increase in momentum in the supply of these arms for Oman's defenses.

[Question] Who do you think should foot the bill for Oman's arms supplies, if they are to be used to protect the gateway to the Gulf--the Strait of Hormuz? The West? Kuwait? Saudi Arabia?

[Answer] As we have said in the past, Oman's revenues are modest, and in view of our economic development plans, we are unable to devote more than we do now for our defense requirements. Therefore, we would look to the Western world and our brothers and friends in the region to assist us in the purchase of arms and equipment.

[Question] Which countries in the region, for example?

[Answer] We would expect all the countries in the region which agree that the threat to the strait and to the region exists to help us improve our capabilities.

[Question] Which countries in particular?

[Answer] Each country determines the actual threat to itself, and therefore its readiness to offer us assistance.

[Question] Last autumn, H. M. Sultan Qabus sent envoys to the Gulf countries--including Iran--to invite them into an initiative for the joint defense of the strait, with the West supplying the arms. At the time, Iraq denounced the plan and other Gulf states asked for time to study it. Has the Soviet incursion into Afghanistan accentuated the need for such a joint defense plan?

[Answer] The Omani dispatch of envoys to the Gulf countries was to present the sultanate's views for ensuring the security of international navigation region of the Strait of Hormuz. The need for this security has increased now, and we are still waiting to hear from the respective governments to whom those thoughts were presented.

[Question] Are you disappointed with the lack of reaction to those thoughts from the Gulf countries so far?

[Answer] There have been so many press reports and stories on this subject. All we say is that the possibility of maritime risks is real, and we would like the Gulf countries that have been approached to consider these ideas and views in the light of the threat to the strait.

We are not as yet in any way certain of the views of these governments, because we have not received any formal replies from them. It has been many months since we presented these views and proposals to our friends in the region, and obviously we are disappointed because there has been no response.

[Question] Do you expect any response in the near future?

[Answer] The sooner we know their decision, the sooner we can go ahead with the implementation of our plan for the security of the strait.

[Question] Could you tell us about this plan?

[Answer] In brief, the plan calls for the purchase of more radar and surveillance equipment, including mine-sweeping boats, to be able to secure the strait. This plan calls not only for the purchase of sophisticated equipment, but also for the training of Omanis to man and use this equipment. This, in brief, is what we need to obtain from the Western world.

[Question] The Strait of Hormuz is equally shared by Oman on the southern shore and Iran to the north. Since both Oman and Iran, along with the rest of the Muslim world, have been alarmed by the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, is it reasonable to expect some form of military cooperation between Muscat and Tehran to defend the strait, as was the case under the shah?

[Answer] Iran, as you are aware, is in a situation similar to ours vis-a-vis the danger posed by the Soviet military thrust in Afghanistan. We therefore share common worries. But regarding the matter of expediting military cooperation between Iran and Oman to defend the strait, there has been no direct discussion with Iran on this topic.

[Question] Why not?

[Answer] We feel that Iran at this stage needs some time to be able to stabilize itself internally, and we sincerely hope that this will happen. They will then be able to discuss with us ways and means of defending the strait.

[Question] You expect them to do so when Iran is stabilized?

[Answer] Yes, that is our feeling, and as you know, Iran was among the countries to which our plans and proposals were submitted. So we are waiting to hear from them as well as the other Gulf states about their views on our proposals.

[Question] The Omani undersecretary at the Ministry of Defense, Col Salem 'Abdallah al-Ghazali, stated recently that Oman might consider imposing fees on tankers passing through the strait. Could you confirm that?

[Answer] If this could be done, it would be very good for Oman. Any country would like to receive fees for services rendered. Considering that our naval capability will be concentrated on the security of the strait, and in view of the expenditure that goes with such a responsibility, I would say that we would not refuse any fees that might be offered to us.

[Question] Do you believe the West would react favorably to such a measure?

[Answer] I hope so.

[Question] Yes, but what do you anticipate?

[Answer] I can only hope. Perhaps after they read what Col Salem al-Ghazali has said--as you read it in the Omani newspapers--we will be able to assess their reaction.

[Question] So the statement was a test baloon?

[Answer] Perhaps.

[Question] What exactly are the security threats the Strait of Hormuz is facing now?

[Answer] Much has been said in the press about these threats. Probably the most dangerous threat is that of terrorists laying mines in the strait or claiming that they have done so, thus affecting maritime traffic.

It would be extremely risky for shipowners to permit their vessels to pass through the strait if they thought that mines had actually been laid in it. And any stoppage of maritime traffic in the strait would have a tremendous impact on the economies of the industrialized countries, and of this region.

[Question] When you say "terrorists," to whom are you referring?

[Answer] There are several terrorist organizations, including Arab terrorist organizations, that have stated that they might consider laying mines in the strait of Hormuz.

[Question] Which Arab terrorists?

[Answer] I have read this in several newspapers, as you have--that there are terrorist organizations which would contemplate such action.

[Question] Would you say Palestinian?

[Answer] I would not say Palestinians or any other Arab organizations, but I would say they are Arab organizations.

[Question] Would you specify?

[Answer] No, but I know for a fact that there are Arab organizations which have stated so.

[Question] So mining the strait is the main threat?

[Answer] Yes.

[Question] Col. Ghazali was in Cairo last week for talks on military cooperation between Egypt and Oman. What were the results of those talks? What can we expect in terms of military cooperation between Cairo and Muscat? Will the number of Egyptian military advisors on training missions with the Omani armed forces be increased? Under what circumstances, if any, would Egyptian armed forces be stationed in Oman?

[Answer] Frankly, I have not had a report on those talks, because Col. Ghazali came back recently, and I have been away. But the talks were on bilateral relations in general and therefore they were normal discussions.

I must make it very clear at this stage--I must be emphatic--that there are no Egyptian military advisors of any sort of Oman, and there are no arrangements in progress for having any Egyptian forces in Oman. We do not contemplate any situation that would necessitate the presence of Egyptian forces in Oman at present.

[Question] Oman, Somalia and Sudan are the only Arab countries that have refused to break off relations with Egypt over Camp David. Is it true, however, that Oman has lately been tempering its stance on the Palestinian issue in order to improve its relations with other Arab countries in the Gulf--particularly Saudi Arabia?

[Answer] We have repeatedly stated that our view of the Camp David agreements is that they are a preliminary step toward a just and lasting settlement of the Middle East crisis. We do not deviate at all from the general Arab conception of the settlement.

We believe that the fundamental issue is complete withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all Arab lands occupied in 1967, restoration of the inalienable national rights and aspirations of the Palestinians so as to enable them to establish their independent and sovereign state, and restoration of Jerusalem to its Arab status under Arab administration.

In the light of the above components of Oman's stand, any change in our policy in favor of those components should not be ruled out.

[Question] Could you elaborate?

[Answer] The success of the Camp David agreements depends, as far as Oman is concerned, on the achievement of what I have told you. Failing this, Oman reserves the right to review its policy.

[Question] How would you evaluate relations between Oman and the PLO today?

[Answer] We have normal, friendly relations with the PLO. We have supported all the issues related to the Palestinian problem, and we have participated in all conferences and meetings which have lent their support to the Palestinian issue.

In view of this, we feel that we have not failed in our Arab duty to support the Palestinian issue--which, to our minds, is the issue of the Western world's injustice to the Palestinian people.

We stand with the Palestinian people in their rights, their legitimate rights and aspirations to form an independent state. Therefore we consider the Palestinian issue as any other Arab country does and support it wholeheartedly.

[Question] But wouldn't you say that Oman's failure to sever diplomatic relations with Egypt has strained its relations with the PLO?

[Answer] If this is interpreted as an act against the Palestinians' hopes and wishes of achieving their legitimate rights, we feel the interpretation is wrong. Our support of the agreement, as I said earlier, is based on the success of the overall agreement, in all its aspects, the most important aspect being the Palestinian issue.

[Question] Would Oman accept a PLO office in Muscat in the near future?

[Answer] We would be prepared to discuss this issue with the PLO, if they wish to do so. We have certain problems and views on this subject, and they have their views. The matter can be resolved in a meeting between the two sides.

[Question] Do you expect such a meeting to be held soon?

[Answer] We would like it to be held soon. It also may be held soon.

[Question] Is Oman's current production level of 300,000 barrels of oil per day expected to be maintained? What are your production targets for the 1980's, after the recent small discoveries in Dhofar?

[Answer] We expect the production level of 300,000 barrels per day to be maintained, and this will be made possible by the oil discoveries in the southern region. So to answer your question, we will be able to maintain the 300,000-barrel level in the 1980's.

[Question] When do you expect Oman to join OPEC, OAPEC, or both?

[Answer] I don't think that we will be able to joint either organization in the near future. However, Oman has generally implemented the decisions of those organizations, when they have been compatible with our national interests, which are foremost in our minds.

[Question] Why are you staying out of OPEC and OAPEC?

[Answer] We have decided, as a matter of policy, to remain out of both organizations. This policy decision was based on the fact that, in view of our limited production, we do not see ourselves as a country that would be able to play a role in these organizations. Hence, we would rather remain outside them until our production, inshallah, improves, enabling us to take our seat with the other countries in these organizations.

[Question] The sultanate is preparing to celebrate the 10th anniversary of H. M. Sultan Qabus's accession next November. In the decade that has just ended, Oman is said to have leaped from the 12th century to the 20th, thanks to oil and a change of regime. What are Oman's goals and expectations for the next decade?

[Answer] H. M. Sultan Qabus is determined to achieve Omanization in every possible field, and I am happy to say that this wise policy has already paid dividends in many sectors--public administration, services, education, health and the armed forces. The government is now seeking ways and means to strengthen the country's rate in agriculture, minerals and fisheries.

Before going into the second five-year plan, I would like to say that the first five-year plan of Oman concentrated on the infrastructure of the country--the building of roads, television, health services, education services, communication services, airports, etc. The second five-year plan will concentrate on income-earning projects, by exploiting three main fields--agriculture, minerals and fisheries.

In agriculture, the main problem that we hope to solve is the country's water resources. Once this is done, we can embark on concentrated agricultural projects in several regions of the country where soil conditions are favorable.

In the field of minerals, we are already embarking on a copper mining production in late 1982 or 1983.

In the field of fisheries, we hope to establish--we have established--a national fishery corporation to enable us to exploit this vast amount of natural resources which God has given Oman. With its 1,700-mile coastline, Oman is extremely rich in sea food.

This will be the main emphasis of Oman's second five-year plan, which is quite ambitious: its total cost is estimated at 1.45 billion Omani rials.

[Question] Do you have any messages I can take back to the Lebanese and Arab people?

[Answer] To the Arab people, I would like to say that I hope the Arab nations will be able to unite and strengthen themselves under one umbrella to achieve their ambitions.

To the Lebanese people: I wish them success in achieving the peace and security of the Lebanon we all used to know many years ago.

VISITING ERITREAN LIBERATION LEADER SCORES SOVIET MIDEAST ROLE

LD210009 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Feb 80 LD/EA

[Text] Osman Saleh, chairman of the Eritrean Liberation Front Executive Council, said he has reviewed with sultanate officials the situation in Eritrea and the difficult conditions experienced by the Eritrean revolution. He said there is a concurrence of views on the significance of the attacks throughout the region. He added that Oman had a similar experience and preceded us in its defense of national sovereignty against external interference motivated and supported by the Soviets. He said the firmness of the Omani people and their conscious leadership represented by his majesty the sultan enabled the people to maintain their sovereignty.

In an Omani press interview he said that the USSR is working against national movements and independent states using its agents in these states with the aim of imposing its domination over them and exercising the most brutal methods of exploitation. He said: We note that the people who have fallen into the clutches of the Soviets have become the most impoverished of all peoples and this means that the USSR offers nothing but weapons, for at the same time it withholds from such peoples what they need to develop their economies.

The Eritrean official expressed his thanks to the Omani news media and said: We have been following what was published of reports on the jihad being waged by the fighters of Eritrea. We felt Omani support for our just cause. We hope that the rest of the Arab countries will follow Oman's example.

Regarding South Yemen's stand on the Eritrean revolution, he said the Aden government has not only adopted a negative attitude to our struggle but has gone further and backed the ruling Ethiopian regime by sending its army to fight the Eritrean fighters. He said he hopes the Yemeni people will change their government's position by any means they think appropriate and that the National Front for the Liberation of South Yemen will achieve success, restore the Arab and Islamic character of South Yemen and bring about the liberation of the people there from the client regime which moves in the Soviet orbit.

PDRY

YAR MILITARY ENVOY SAYS TALKS IN ADEN 'VERY SUCCESSFUL'

LD211628 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpt] Brother Lt Col 'Ali al-Mansur, deputy chief of the General Staff for Military Affairs and chairman of the military committee of the northern part of the homeland, and the other members of the committee left Aden this morning after attending a session of the joint military committee of the two parts of the homeland.

In a statement to ADEN NEWS AGENCY shortly before leaving Aden international airport, brother Lt Col 'Ali al-Mansur expressed great satisfaction with the results of the talks in Aden by the joint military committee of the two parts. He said: The talks were very successful. Unity between the Yemeni people is the only way to lead the Yemen to become a strong single state able to overcome all difficulties.

Brother Lt Col 'Ali al-Mansur added that his visit and meetings with brother officials in the southern part have been of major importance. We would convey verbal messages from the brother leaders in the southern part of the homeland to their counterparts in the northern part.

Brother Lt Col 'Ali al-Mansur concluded his statement by saying that the two sides of the joint military committee have agreed that the next meeting would be held next month in San'a', in the northern part of the homeland.

ADEN RADIO REPORTS COMMUNIQUE ON SYRIAN BA'TH PARTY VISIT

LD202358 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Joint communique issued 17 February on the visit of the delegation of the Syrian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party to Democratic Yemen--read by announcer]

[Text] At the invitation of the YSP Central Committee, a Ba'th Party delegation led by brother Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, member of the National Command and chief of the Foreign Relations Bureau, visited Democratic Yemen from 9-16 February. The other members of the delegation were: Dr Sulayman Qaddah, member of the Regional Command and of the Central Committee and chief of the Regional, Economic and Financial Bureau; brother Fawzi Sayyagh, secretary for Publicity, Publications and Information Bureau of the national leadership; brother Nabil (Fazzi), member of the Foreign Relations Bureau; and brother Ali Hasan, member of the Foreign Relations Committee.

During their visit the delegates met brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council of Democratic Yemen, to whom they conveyed greetings from his brother, Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Party. They briefed him on the experience of the party's organizations in the First and Third Governorates in the field of party and organizational work.

The delegates visited the Higher School for Scientific Socialism of the YSP Central Committee, as well as many economic and cultural establishments and institutions. During their visit the Ba'th Party delegates were briefed on various aspects of the revolution in Democratic Yemen and the steps taken to raise the level of the national economy to enable it to meet requirements, to raise living standards, and to develop the people's material and spiritual life by expanding and consolidating the status and role of the state and cooperative sectors in national production and the provision of essential social services.

The delegates were also briefed, in particular, on the YSP's experience in developing the internal life of the party and the exercise of democracy in its ranks and the leadership of the state and national organizations on the basis of the principle of democratic centralism.

They were also briefed on the steps being taken to enhance the defense capabilities and to consolidate the status of the progressive regime in Democratic Yemen and the latter's resistance to internal and external imperialist and reactionary plots aimed at obstructing the struggles of the Yemeni people and their revolution to achieve peaceful liberation, progress and unity between the two parts of Yemen on the basis of national progress.

The Ba'th Party delegates expressed high appreciation for the experience of the brothers in Democratic Yemen and the great successes achieved by the fraternal people of Democratic Yemen on the path leading to liberation, progress and socialism under YSP leadership, hailing their steadfastness in the face of encirclement by the imperialists, Zionists and reactionaries, as well as their role in the Arab nation's fight against imperialist, Zionist and reactionary plots.

. delegates stressed their support for any measures taken toward unifying the two parts of Yemen, holding the view that Yemeni unity would be nothing but confrontation with enemies and a return to normal conditions in the fraternal land of Yemen.

The Ba'th Party delegates briefed the YSP brothers on the results of the seventh regional party congress in the Syrian Arab region and the resolutions adopted by it with a view to strengthening the party's march toward laying material economic foundations, consolidating socialist policy, consolidating national unity and enhancing Syria's defensive capacity to resist Zionist aggression against the Arab nation, confront imperialist and Zionist plots against the Arab nation and the capitulatory course taken by As-Sadat in implementing these designs and serving the imperialist and Zionist designs in the Arab region.

The delegates explained the liberal policy pursued by the Ba'th party and the progressive achievements brought about by the struggle of the people and the efforts of the progressive regime in the Syrian Arab region to create economic, social and political structures capable of furthering Syria's preparations to contribute to the battle being waged by the Arab nation. They also explained Arab steadfastness as embodied in the National Steadfastness and Confrontation Front in resisting Israeli aggression against the Arab nation and all the plots of the imperialists, Zionists as well as those of As-Sadat aimed at weakening the Arab position.

The YSP praised the results of the seventh Ba'th Party regional congress and the important resolutions adopted by it. It also praised Syria's role in confronting imperialist-Zionist aggression against the Arab nation uniting the Arab progressive and liberation forces enhancing their cohesiveness in order to strengthen the Arab struggle mobilizing the Arab nation's energies for the battle of liberation foiling the Camp David accords and confronting the concentrated pressures aimed at weakening the steadfastness of the Syrian Arab region to destroy its progressive nationalist role by inciting certain criminal gangs which hide behind the veil of Islam, but are led by imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

The YSP expressed high appreciation for the great achievements realized by the Arab people in Syria under the Ba'th leadership in securing their own social progress and their advance on the path toward complete freedom, social progress, Arab unity, and the building of socialism. The YSP hailed the experience of the Progressive National Front in Syria, describing it as a fraemwork for the unity of the struggle of the nationalist and progressive forces to enable them fully to shoulder the tasks of the national and regional liberation of the Arab people of fraternal Syria.

The two parties expressed their satisfaction at the state of relations between the two countries, while stressing the need to develop cooperation in various spheres. They also expressed satisfaction at the role being played by the two fraternal countries in the struggle against the Camp David accords. They praised the role played by the people's organizations of both countries through positive contributions toward building a new society and participating in the social and economic transformation of both countries. They stressed the need to develop direct relations between them.

During the talks the two sides reviewed the conditions affecting the Arab struggle in terms of the impact of the ferocious imperialist-Zionist attack on the Arab nation and As-Sadat's betrayal and surrender to the Zionist enemy, his move against Arab unanimity; his conclusion of traitorous agreements with the Zionist enemy, notwithstanding the threats these pose to the Arab and Palestinian cause; his recent move to normalize relations with the aggressive Zionist racist entity; and his opening of Egypt's doors to Zionist and American influence as a preparatory step to subjecting the entire Arab nation to this influence.

The two sides held concurrent views on the capitulatory policy and its grave consequences. Accordingly the two sides strongly condemn the Camp David accords and the separate settlement treaty between Egypt and Israel. They disapprove of all past, present and future moves to be made jointly by the Egyptian regime and Israel under the auspices of the United States toward normalizing relations and implementing so-called administrative autonomy for the Palestinians. They also condemn the establishment of the new As-Sadat-Israeli-American imperialist aggressive alliance because of its grave threats not only against the Arab nation but against the interests of the African states and their liberation movements.

The two fraternal parties agreed on the need to deepen the unity of Arab struggle through effective official and popular solidarity and invite all the Arab forces to stand behind the pan-Arab movement of steadfastness and confrontation by supporting its principal prop, Syria, and the Palestine resistance to restore the strategic balance in the arena of the Arab-Israeli conflict so as to be able to bring down the conspiracy of capitulation and apostasy.

They stressed the need for establishing principled strategic relations with the USSR and the other members of the socialist community, loyal friends of our Arab nation in the struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

The two sides hailed the final statement issued by the conference of the foreign ministers of the countries belonging to the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation held in Damascus on 16 January 1980 and stressed that the contrived agitation to which world imperialism has resorted under the leadership of the United States in collusion with the Egyptian regime and Israel with regard to events in Iran and Afghanistan is directed at the Arab nation and the Islamic states and is intended to turn them away from the real threat represented by Israeli aggression, break up Arab-Islamic solidarity, rescue the parties to the Camp David accords from the situation they are in and create dissension between the Arab nation and its friends, especially the USSR and the other socialist countries.

They agreed that the Palestinian cause is the crux of the Arab-Zionist struggle, the cause of all Arabs in all their countries and should be the foundation of the policy of every Arab country and the axis to direct all efforts in this conflict.

The imperialist-Zionist aggression against Palestine and other Arab territories constitutes a direct threat to the safety of the Arab countries. The separate deals signed by As-Sadat, with the Zionist enemy under U.S. auspices leading to the normalization of relations between As-Sadat's agent regime and the Zionist enemy and the conspiracy of self-administration cannot be the basis of any just and peaceful solution in the Middle East region.

The two sides stressed that the solution lies in the withdrawal of Israel from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian Arab people to return to their homeland, exercise self-determination and establish their own independent state under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate leader of the Palestinian Arab people.

The two sides affirmed their support for the struggle of the Egyptian people and their progressive nationalist forces to overthrow As-Sadat's agent regime as this is a prerequisite for aborting the Camp David accords. They also expressed support for the struggle of the fraternal Lebanese people and their progressive Nationalist Movement to maintain the Arab character of Lebanon, its territorial integrity and democratic development. They condemned the various plots aimed at liquidating the Palestinian resistance in southern Lebanon. They hailed the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories against Zionist settler expansionism and the plot of self-administration.

The two sides declared their stance on the side of the Iranian Revolution and the Iranian people in their struggle to defend their freedom, independence, sovereignty and control of their resources. They denounced U.S. threats against the Iranian Revolution and U.S. deployment of the most powerful and destructive weapons in the Arab Gulf region. These threats are not aimed against Iran only but also at the Arab Gulf region in view of its being an important and sensitive region in relation to U.S. interests in Middle East energy resources. The United States supports in an indirect manner [as heard] the parties to the Camp David agreement and its supporters in the region.

The two sides stressed the need to liquidate the imperialist military presence in the Gulf, the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean and establish relations among the states of the region on the basis of coexistence, respect for sovereignty and noninterference in the internal affairs as a prerequisite for security and stability in the Gulf region and the Arab Peninsula.

The two sides expressed their support for the legitimate struggle waged by the liberation movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America against imperialism, outmoded colonialism and neocolonialism and racism to achieve freedom and social progress for the peoples of the countries.

The two sides pointed out the need to consolidate the forces of progress, socialism and liberation in the world in their common struggle against imperialism and Zionism, limit armaments, promote international detente, consolidate world peace and security and promote social progress for all peoples and their independent development.

The two sides hailed the continuing support of the socialist community headed by the friendly USSR for the just struggle of the Arab nation in its battle of destiny against world imperialism and Zionism.

The two sides condemned the attempts of imperialism, Zionism and reaction led by U.S. imperialism to take our world back to the days of the cold war, encourage the arms race, produce more weapons of universal destruction and endanger world peace and security.

The two sides expressed their appreciation of the increasing role of the nonalined movements and the results of the Havana summit conference to strengthen the international role, establish equal economic relations among all states and reestablish international economic relations on a democratic basis so as to do away with discrimination, domination and inequality.

The Ba'th Party delegation expressed its deep thanks for the warm reception it was accorded during its visit. It also extended an invitation to a delegation from the YSP Central Committee to visit the Syrian Arab region. The invitation was accepted, and the date for the visit will be fixed later.

YAR

PRESIDENT APPOINTS NEW AL-BAYDA' GOVERNOR

JN212033 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Feb 80 JN

["Text" of YAR presidential decree issued 21 February--read by announcer]

[Text] Article 1: Lt Col Muhammad (?Shayib) Jarallah is appointed governor and commander of the Al-Bayda' Province.

Article 2: The present decree will go into effect as of the date of its publication in the orficial gazette.

Issued at the Presidential Palace in San'a' on 4 Rabi' ath-Tahni 1400 Hegira, corresponding to 21 February 1980.

[Signed] Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces; Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani.

CAIRO RADIO COMMENTS ON ISRAELI NUCIEAR ACTIVITIES

NC221420 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Feb 80 NC

[Mahmud Mitwalli commentary]

[Text] Everyone is well aware of Israel's public and secret attempts to possess atomic bombs. Israel's cooperation with certain European countries and with South Africa in particular has been obvious.

Israel took possession of a uranium shipment, which led to an argument among many Arab scientists, particularly in Egypt. Israel then began to raise its voice stressing that Israel no longer feared the enormous Arab population because Israel was producing atomic bombs. Egypt's decisive answer at the time was that Egypt was able to obtain atomic bombs. This gradually silenced the Israeli hawks because Egypt was serious. The Israelis know that Egypt can produce such bombs with the help of its friends.

However, last September near South Africa's coasts a U.S. satellite recorded a glare similar to a nuclear explosion. This has again brought to the fore the issue of the Israeli atomic bomb, particularly since the American CBS news confirmed this report quoting reliable sources. Commenting on this report, CBS news tried to corroborate its report with testimony from Israel, presenting a copy of a book written by two Israeli reporters. The two Israeli reporters confirmed that Israel has a nuclear arsenal. This arsenal was produced with the help of uranium shipments from the South African Government under an agreement concluded after 1957. There is technical cooperation between South Africa and Israel under which Israel provides expertise to the Pretoria government and the latter gives uranium to Israel. This agreement is still valid although Israel does not depend solely on South Africa for uranium supplies. Certain European and U.S. organizations have also provided Israel with nuclear support.

We stress--if we are to assume that this explosion that took place near Africa's coasts was an Israeli nuclear explosion--that this means that Israel is joining the small atomic club by producing a Hiroshima-style bomb.

Since Egypt is currently making courageous steps toward peace, it is not in the interest of the Middle East to become a zone of nuclear conflict. Egypt insists that Africa and the Middle East must be free from atomic weapons. However, we must not remain silent and rely on intentions. The Arabs must understand history and keep up with the current of time. Let the Arabs understand that the battles with Israel are fierce and ferocious and require a unified stand. What is the use of "ifs" after history has decisively settled this conflict. Israel must realize the reality of the age in which it is living. It is not in Israel's interest to possess atomic bombs at a time when it is proceeding toward or seeking peace in order to exist. Atomic bombs will not give Israel security. What Israel can do, others may also be able to do, thus endangering peace. Egypt will not allow such trends or intentions, but will confront them out of its faith in its mission.

AS-SADAT MEETS MEMBERS OF NDP SECRETARIAT

NC211557 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Feb 80 NC

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat has met with members of the Secretariat General of the National Democratic Party [NDP]. The meeting was attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak. Later the president attended the weekly meeting with the NDP leaders and members of the parliamentary body.

Minister of state for presidential affairs, Mansur Hasan, has said that at the meeting President Anwar as-Sadat pointed out the Egypt is living through its most glorious days because it is achieving the liberation of the land as well and the respect of mankind, its freedom, safety and security. The president said that in order for these days to be a staging point, all party members and leaders must be active day and night in all fields because our basic task now is to raise political action above past vituperations and personal conflicts to the appropriate level on the basis of seriousness and accomplishments.

The president said: In order to rise to the level of this task we must set an example in practicing democracy and work with feelings of love instead of hatred.

President Anwar as-Sadat has decided to hold a series of semiweekly meetings with all leaders at various levels, beginning this Saturday when he will meet with representatives of Alexandria and Al-Minya.

President as-Sadat will begin his meetings with members of the labor and professional trade unions Tuesday, when he will meet with members of the General Labor Federation and heads of the trade unions in administrative regions. The president will meet with the NDP Political Bureau Thursday and will preside over the party parliamentary body meeting on 2 March.

AL-AKHBAR COMMENTS ON ISLAMIC DEFENSE ALLIANCE

LD201353 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 17 Feb 80 p 6 LD

[Editorial: "An Islamic Alliance: Is It Possible?"]

[Excerpts] President Carter's call for the establishment of an Islamic defense alliance is great and splendid. With this call the U.S. President has confronted the world Islamic countries with their historical responsibilities which are a must if the Islamic world is to regain its glory, strength and status and become a power feared by those who threaten it from outside or within. If President Carter's call for this alliance defines it as the unity of the Islamic world in going to the aid of any Islamic country that becomes the target of Soviet aggression, such a definition, we believe, is self-seeking. We are looking to the establishment of an alliance that goes beyond this limitation; we want a powerful alliance in the face of any threat, be it Soviet, American or from any other power that may be tempted by the weakness of the Islamic world and the present division among Muslims.

Indeed, the U.S. President's call for the creation of such an alliance is, as we have said, great and splendid and emanates from a good spirit in favor of the establishment of such an alliance, which is an Islamic wish which Muslim leaders and reformers have advocated and for which they have waged a sincere struggle.

It is indeed a good call that gives Muslims the hope of becoming a power of great status to be reckoned with in the international arena. There is no doubt that this alliance will achieve a world balance between the two superpowers, represented in the NATO alliance, which embraces the rightists, and the Warsaw Pact, which embraces the leftists. This alliance would be a protection for the Islamic world against foreign interference of any kind and foreign designs against the Islamic countries through plotting, sabotage and subversion. There is no doubt that the establishment of this military alliance will strengthen the political and economic links between the Islamic countries and will cement unity and enhance their strength in the face of the conflicts and challenges of the age in which we are living. This alliance would also be a guarantee for the Islamic countries against vacillation between right and left, because the alliance's strength is intrinsic and stems from these countries strength and independence.

But the question raised by the call is: Will the Islamic world respond to this call and want to establish a military alliance, regardless of whether the call was initiated by President Carter or anybody else? Also, is the Islamic world capable of taking such action and shouldering its burden on a sound Islamic basis?

With regard to the desire, we are certain that this is the desire of all the Islamic peoples; it might also be the desire of a number of rulers. But there are other rulers who are opposed to this desire and do not wish it to materialize. Their existence in power is nothing but a means of creating division between the Arab and Islamic countries. This is evident in the attitude of certain Islamic countries toward the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the criminal Soviet annihilation of the Muslim Afghan people. Will those Islamic and Arab countries which publicly support the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the annihilation of the Muslim Afghan people respond to the call for the establishment of an Islamic defense alliance?

DEFENSE MINISTER 'ALI TO FLY TO TEL AVIV 25 FEB

NC220755 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 22 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 February--AL-AHRAM reports today that defense and war production minister, Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali, will fly to Tel Aviv on Monday at the head of a political and military delegation to hold discussions with the Israeli side under Gen 'Ezer Weizman. The discussions will deal with Egypt's demand that negotiations be initiated on implementing the second and last stage of the withdrawal to the international borders. This demand will be on the basis that the main commitment in the treaty is a mutual relationship between the withdrawal and ending the state of war and establishing normal bilateral relations.

Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Gen 'Ezer Weizman will attend the first meeting of the Egyptian and Israeli normalization committee, which will meet in a plenary session to discuss the second stage of the normalization of relations after the exchange of ambassadors.

JAPANESE ENVOY SONODA ARRIVES 21 FEB

JN211541 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 21 February--Sunao Sonoda, former foreign minister and special Japanese envoy, arrived in Baghdad this afternoon on a visit of several days to Iraq. Sonoda announced that he has brought a message to President Saddam Husayn from Japanese Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira dealing with bilateral relations and the current international situation.

The Japanese envoy is currently on a tour during which he will visit several Arab countries, India, Pakistan and Iran.

BURUNDIAN MINISTER MEETS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

JN211208 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 21 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 21 February--Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi met here today with Lt Col Edouard Nzambimana, Burundian minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, in order to resume the talks begun between them the day before yesterday. The two ministers discussed Iraqi-Burundian relations, ways of bolstering these relations and other Arab, African and international issues.

The Burundian minister arrived in Baghdad last Monday.

Ends Visit

JN211539 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1455 GMT 21 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 21 February--Edouard Nzambimana, Burundian minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, concluded a 4-day visit to Iraq today. In a predeparture statement, Nzambimana said he held successful talks with various Iraqi officials and that the two countries' viewpoints on Arab and African issues were identical. He underlined the importance of solidarity between the Arab and African peoples, the need to further strengthen this solidarity in countering Zionism, imperialism and racial discrimination and the necessity of supporting the struggle against the industrial countries' exploitation of the developing countries. He added that the Iraqi and Burundian sides have agreed to cooperate and to exchange visits of delegations in various political, cultural and technical spheres.

Joint Statement

JN211923 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 21 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 21 February--Iraq and Burundi have denounced the racist Zionist aggression against the Palestinian Arab people and the Arab nation.

In a joint statement issued here this evening, the two countries stressed that just and lasting peace can only be achieved through the complete and unconditional withdrawal of the Zionist occupation forces from all Palestinian and Arab territories. They also stressed that the Palestinian people must recover their full rights in their homeland of Palestine and establish their own independent and sovereign state in Palestine.

The Iraqi and Burundi sides condemned the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon, given that it is part of the imperialist maneuvers to liquidate the Palestinian resistance, maneuvers that violate Lebanon's territorial integrity and regional unity. They also recalled the UN General Assembly resolution that holds Zionism to be one form of racial discrimination and noted that this resolution is a triumph for the people in the African continent and for the Arab nation.

The two sides condemned all partial agreements and separate treaties, which are a blatant violation of the rights of the Arab nation and the Palestinian people, of OAU principles and of international resolutions on the Palestinian cause.

Iraq and Burundi stressed that maintaining security and stability in the Arab Gulf area is the responsibility of the countries in the area alone, without foreign intervention. They expressed their full support for liberation movements in Africa and Latin America and strongly denounced racist regimes in the African continent and their policies of racial discrimination.

The two countries called on all progressive countries to undertake joint action to end the oppression to which the South African and Namibian peoples are being subjected and denounced the South African regime's continuous intervention in Zimbabwe's domestic affairs.

The Iraqi and Burundi sides expressed their full support for the efforts to render the Indian Ocean and its extensions an area of peace, free of foreign influence and foreign bases, in the interest of the area's countries and peoples.

They also stressed their full support for the UN Charter's fundamental principles, which call for a commitment to the principle of nonintervention in other countries' domestic affairs, the removal of the threat of force in international relations, respect for all people's rights to self-determination and independence and equal sovereignty among countries.

They also supported the continuation of the North-South dialog between developing and industrialized countries, in order to achieve integrated and balanced solutions to major problems in raw materials, energy, trade, development, money, financing and technology transfer.

Iraq and Burundi praised the sixth nonalined conference resolutions and stressed their determination to work to protect the nonalined movement's unity and basic principles and to increase its effectiveness, with the purpose of establishing a new world order that will organize world economic and political relations.

The two sides agreed to cooperate fully to secure the success of the seventh nonalined conference, scheduled to be held here in 1982, and to work to coordinate the nonalined stand in the UN session devoted to the new world economic order.

The Burundi side praised the Iraqi proposal on the establishment of an international fund for long term assistance to developing countries, to help them combat inflation, a fund in which industrial and oil-producing countries will participate.

The issuance of the Iraqi-Burundi joint statement comes at the end of an official visit Burundi Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Minister Edouard Nzambimana paid to Iraq, during which he held talks with his Iraqi counterpart, Dr Sa'dun Hammadi.

PFLP'S ABU 'ALI MUSTAFA, DELEGATION ARRIVE 21 FEB

JN211959 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 21 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 21 February--A PFLP delegation led by front Assistant Secretary General Abu 'Ali Mustafa arrived in Baghdad this evening on a visit of several days to Iraq. The PFLP official stated that he will hold talks with Ba'th Party National Command officials on current Palestinian and Arab issues. Abu 'Ali Mustafa stressed the importance of these meetings in strengthening the Arabs' confrontation of the imperialist-Zionist onslaught against the Arab nation.

ATH-THAWRAH CONDEMNS OMAN'S 'SUSPECT MOVES'

JN220828 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 22 Feb 80 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 22 February--The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH has strongly attacked the Omani regime for its suspect role in facilitating the thick presence of U.S. forces in the Arab Gulf area. The paper says that the Qabus regime's agreement to grant military facilities to the United States and the current contacts between this regime and traitor As-Sadat's regime regarding the possible conclusion of a joint defense treaty are actual steps to entrench the imperialist presence in the region.

In an editorial today, the paper adds that this policy clearly demonstrates the nature of the suspect moves of the Omani regime and the connection and agreement between these moves and the blatant imperialist move in the Arab Gulf area in the wake of recent developments in Iran and the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. The paper points out that the Omani regime's pretexts have been unmasked and exposed and cannot deceive anyone. The responsibility of defending the Arabism and security of the Gulf is an Arab responsibility and not the responsibility of imperialist forces or any foreign state. The paper affirms that the pan-Arab charter announced by President Saddam Husayn is the only united Arab strategy which is qualified to defend Arab land and guarantee the security and sovereignty of its states.

The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH affirms that any other plan or program proposed by Qabus' regime or any other regime with the participation or financing of any foreign state and under any pretext or cover is an exposed attempt to implement colonialist alliances, which are condemned and strongly rejected by all the Arab Gulf countries.

LONDON MAGAZINE REPORTS BA'TH PARTY PURGE, EXECUTIONS

LD220901 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 22 Feb 80 p 8 LD

[Unattributed report: "Top Secret"]

[Text] A major purge of the ranks of the Iraqi Ba'th Party has been underway for the past 2 weeks. The purge included chief of intelligence, Col Ibrahim al-'Azzawi who has been transferred to an administrative post in a town east of Karbala'. Western reports say the reason is the discovery of a plot against President Saddam Husayn, while sources close to the Iraqi regime say the reason is a bribery scandal in which several senior officials are involved. Several persons have been executed in the campaign.

AL-JUMHURIYAH ON IRAQI COMMUNISTS' LINK WITH ZIONISM

LD211619 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 15 Feb 80 p 1 LD

[Unattributed report]

[Text] The magazine SAWT AT-TALABAH [VOICE OF STUDENTS] next Sunday will publish two documents which conclusively prove the Iraqi Communists' link with the world Zionist movement and the embassies of the racist entity [Israel] abroad. The documents consist of two messages proving the Iraqi Communists' link with the world Zionist movement. The first is from the British Communist Party to the general secretary of the British National Union of Students [NUS] and the second is from the Zionist entity's embassy to the same official.

The Zionist embassy message reveals the full coordination between the Iraqi Communists and the racist Zionists in planning to conspire against our struggling country and the policies of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the party with the human message. This coordination is evident in the second paragraph of the enemy embassy's message, which says: You may be aware that our new ambassador attaches great importance to attacks on the enemies of Israel and the Jewish people and regards your actions against the Ba'th Party, although only against students, of primary importance and something we need.

The British Communist Party's message to the general secretary of the NUS, which receives support and guidance from the Zionist entity's embassy, stressed the need to support the Iraqi Communists in the elections at the next NUS conference.

OPEC COMMITTEE APPROVES IRAQI CALL FOR WORLD FUND

JN221535 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 22 Feb 80 JN

[Text] London, 22 February--The OPEC's long-range strategic committee has approved the proposal made by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to set up a long-range world fund to help the developing countries against inflation. This information was conveyed to the INA London correspondent by Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Iraqi RCC member and oil minister, at the end of the committee's meetings here today.

The Iraqi proposal dictates that the advanced industrial countries, irrespective of the nature of their political and economic systems, should contribute to the fund in proportion to the annual inflation these countries export to the developing countries. The oil exporting countries will contribute to this fund.

The strategic committee also discussed OPEC's policy and its relations with the developing and the industrial oil-consuming countries. The committee approved the recommendations that have been adopted by the technical committee in charge of OPEC's political strategy. The committee decided to hold an extraordinary conference at the ministerial level next March to discuss the outcome of its current meetings. The subcommittees expected to end today the discussions of all issues and the drafting of the committee's resolutions and recommendations.

SYRIA DENIES TROOP CONCENTRATIONS ON ISRAELI BORDERS

JN212152 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 21 Feb 80 JN

["Text" of letter sent 21 February from Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to the UN secretary general and the president of the UN Security Council--read by announcer]

[Text] I would like to draw your attention to the serious character of the latest statements Israeli prime minister and his deputy Yigal Yadin have made on alleged Syrian troop concentrations, including thousands of tanks, with the purpose of carrying out military action against Israel. These statements have been accompanied by Israeli troop movements in the occupied Golan Heights.

I would like to strongly deny these Israeli allegations, which will also be refuted by UN observers on the Golan Heights, if asked to submit a report on the situation.

The Syrian Government believes that these Israeli claims are part of the preparations being made to carry out military aggression against the Syrian Arab Republic. Therefore, the Syrian Government would like to draw your attention to this serious situation, resulting from the aggressive Israeli policy and the threats it poses to security and peace in the area and the world. The Syrian Government would like to inform the UN Security Council and the countries that are UN members of this serious situation, which was revealed by the statements of the Israeli prime minister and his deputy during the last 2 days. Please accept our respects.

[Signed] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD RECEIVES LEBANESE DEPUTY 21 FEB

JN211703 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Feb 80 JN

[Text] At 1330 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese deputy Fadalalah Talhuq, who was accompanied by 'Ismat Arslan and Kamil Abu Hamdan.

Discussion during the meeting focused on the situation in Lebanon and efforts to achieve national reconciliation. President al-Asad stressed the need for maximum efforts to achieve these objectives and noted Syria's concern that the Lebanese people live in security and stability, under the canopy of a solid national unity.

BURUNDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN SYRIA 21 FEB

JN212140 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 21 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Damascus--Edouard Nzambimana, Burundian minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, arrived in Damascus tonight leading an official delegation on a 3-day visit to Syria. While here, the Burundian minister will hold talks with various Syrian officials.

He was welcomed at Damascus airport by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and senior foreign ministry officials.

AR-RA'Y DETAILS SYRIAN ATTACK ON MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD

JN211201 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Feb 80 pp 1, 13 JN

["Exclusive" to AR-RA'Y]

[Text] Damascus--At an early hour on the day before yesterday, the Syrian security forces raided an arms cache, which Syrian official sources said belonged to the "Muslim Brotherhood gang," in As-Sakhur quarter in Aleppo.

The Syrian spokesman said that after exchanging fire with members of the armed group, the security men managed to capture the armed men stationed at the cache. Eight men were captured. They are: Ayman Khatib, Samih Ala, Muhammad Ayman 'Alwan, Fakhr ad-Din Zanjir, Muhammad Lu'ayy Bayluni, Haitham 'Abd al-Qadir Hazani and Basil ibn Muhammad Muhtadi Kasham. The eighth was unidentified.

The security men found an arms cache in the den which included 24 automatic rifles, 7 RPG launchers, 24 rockets, 22 explosive charges, 14 pistols and 38 pistol magazines, a number of handgrenades, a number of sewing machines used for making the armed men's clothes, large sums of money and a number of documents on the activities of the gang and its plans.

The Syrian spokesman said that several of the armed gang, who had tried to escape, were captured and that they are being questioned.

One Syrian security man was killed and two were wounded during the incident.

COMMENTARY URGES NATIONAL ACCORD IN LEBANON

JN171536 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Feb 80 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Arab Syria performed a major historic task in fraternal Lebanon when it stopped the civil war prevented the partition of Lebanon and safeguarded its territorial integrity and states. By achieving these big historic tasks, Arab Syria provided Lebanon with the suitable means and climate to deal with its affairs by itself and to rebuild itself on the basis of national reconciliation and accord. It provided Lebanon with the suitable means and climate to deal with its affairs by itself and to rebuild itself on the basis of national reconciliation and accord. It provided Lebanon with tne necessary atmosphere to play its full role in rebuilding the state institutions and imposing the state's legitimacy on all the Lebanese territories.

Syria has been shouldering and fully implementing these big responsibilities for 4 years. It did not begrudge any effort and tried by all means to help all the sides in Lebanon reach national reconciliation. Syria placed all its resources at the disposal of the Lebanese state and officials to enable them to take the required steps toward reconciliation, restoration of legitimacy and fortification of Lebanon against division and fragmentation and against the conspiracies of division and partition.

In contrast with this Syrian altruism, Syria notes with increasing anxiety that in the past 4 years, the Lebanese sides and states have not moved toward national reconciliation and have not implemented the special tasks of expediting the formation of the Lebanese security forces and completing the establishment of the Lebanese army so that these forces can be the state's means of imposing its legitimate authority throughout Lebanon and not only over the areas where the deterrent forces are deployed.

Arab Syria, which cares for the security, stability, safety and unity of Lebanon, believes that the achievement of its pan-Arab tasks of safeguarding Lebanon's unity and state has led to a situation wherein the state is exercising its authority over areas where the deterrent forces are deployed, while certain Lebanese quarters are unilaterally controlling whole areas which have become out of bounds to the state and its legitimate authority.

All the Lebanese quarters, including the Lebanese state, were expected to benefit from the positive circumstances supplied by the Arab Deterrent Forces so as to restore Lebanon's health and the state's authority and control throughout Lebanon. The Lebanese state and all the Lebanese quarters are still expected to move in that direction in the interest of Lebanon and in order to eradicate the negative phenomena and dangers which emerged during the civil war and which were contained through the intervention of the deterrent forces.

Arab Syria has performed its full pan-Arab duty. It is up to the Lebanese sides and state to carry out their duty. It is up to the brothers in Lebanon to move toward national reconciliation.

Proceeding from this outlook, Syria views positively the initiative of the nationalist forces in Lebanon and their program for a political solution which is positive, objective, removed from showmanship and based on national considerations. Undoubtedly, any effort in this direction is a needed and required effort which inspires reassurance and anticipation of results after a long wait.

Syria's concern, rather, Syria's only demand in Lebanon is to see a united Arab Lebanon shouldering the burden of its pan-Arab role in the arena of the Arab-Israeli conflict. What we want and demand is for our brothers in Lebanon to shoulder their responsibilities in rebuilding a united state on a national basis.

The presence of the deterrent forces or the sites of their presence and deployment is a matter governed only by pan-Arab considerations and interests. Perhaps the decision to redeploy forces will be a national factor prompting all the sides to search for means that will consolidate stability and peace throughout Lebanon.

DAILIES COMMENT ON ISRAELI THREATS, INTIMIDATION

JN220812 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Feb 80 JN

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Commenting on the Israeli threats against Syria under the headline "Who Sets the Fire Will Burn in It," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Terrorist Menahem Begin began a campaign of intimidation, threatening to use force against Syria, when he went to the Israeli forces and urged them to be vigilant and ready under the pretext that the situation on Israel's northern border is tense and unstable. Begin had just returned from a meeting with As-Sadat.

Begin's lead was followed by many Israeli politicians and military leaders, including the war minister, the chief of intelligence and the commander of the northern region. Their remarks and threats intensified as part of a scheme coordinated with the rest of the Camp David partners and the criminal and terrorist gangs inside the country which are in collusion with them.

In step with every campaign of threats against Syria, a fresh wave of terrorism, assassination and crime begins inside the country. Not coincidentally, this wave has reached the extent of killing the Soviet experts who are training our forces in the use of the modern weapons required for the defense of our land, liberty, national will and achievements. This wave has also extended to be assassination of our officers and soldiers, our means and hope in the battle in defense of our homeland and soil. Such escalating threats of aggression, which are accompanied by various reports and news stories--such as the fabricated reports about Syrian tank concentrations and the acquisition of tanks by the Palestinians--have always been Israeli tactics which preceded Israeli aggressions and wars.

TISHRIN adds: The aggressive Israeli move is taking place as part of the new U.S. onslaught against the area, which aims at implementing the Camp David objectives in a new style. The United States is directly responsible for the possible consequences of Israel's aggravation of the tension and the danger of explosion. Had it not been for U.S. arming and support, Israel would not have been able to threaten force, commit aggression and defy the UN Charter and resolutions and international law. The new aggressive U.S. policy, which is called the Carter principle and by which the United States gives itself the right to intervene without request, has pushed the area to the brink of explosion. It is a policy which stands behind the Israeli threats and preparations for aggression against Syria. TISHRIN adds: Syria is not afraid. It is determined to defend its policy, which stems from its national interests, the Arab nation's pan-Arab interests and the interests of all the nations struggling for liberty and progress. Today's world is an arena for the United States to gallivant about and do whatever it wants. The balance of forces in the world is known in Washington more than anywhere else in the world. Therefore, who plays with fire in the Middle East will burn his own fingers.

On the Zionist threats and military preparations to commit an aggression against Syria, the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH says: Israel's brazen threats of aggression and the escalation of the imperialist-Zionist conspiratiorial campaign against Syria at this stage reflect the extent of the failure tasted by the partners of the Camp David alliance as a result of the firm and steadfast stand led and consolidated by Syria in defense of pan-Arab existence against the danger of the aggressive Zionist expansionism. By moving its forces in the occupied Golan and sending deception balloons to disguise its aggressive preparations, Israel cannot conceal its aggressive policy and the designs of its aggressive move at this stage.

By acquainting the international community with the dangerous situation in the area, a result of Israel's moves and aggressive policy, through the letter which the deputy prime minister and foreign minister sent yesterday to the UN secretary general and the president of the UN Security Council, Syria is placing the entire world before its responsibilities in confronting Israel's aggressive policy and the dangers inherent in this policy against peace and security in the area as well as in the entire world. ATH-THAWRAH affirms: Syria is stronger than the forces of aggression and plotting think. It is strong in its cohesive people, its brave army, its courageous and wise leadership and its principles and steadfast stands. Syria is capable of repulsing any aggression and defeating the conspiratorial schemes of imperialism, Zionism and capitulation because it is defending Arab rights and the pan-Arab existence and future.

AL-KASM INTERVIEWED ON ARAB, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

JN202122 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 20 Feb 80 JN

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm affirmed that the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's Seventh Regional Congress has made studies of the various political, economic, agricultural and military activities in the Syrian Arab Republic. This came in a comprehensive statement by the prime minister published by the Lebanese weekly magazine AS-SAYYAD today.

Dr al-Kasm talked about the state's economic plan and its method of dealing with the housing crisis in Syria, saying: The Syrian economy is in good condition and Syria can carry on with its scheduled programs whether or not it receives foreign aid. Our plan concentrates on agricultural projects and on keeping qualified people in our country. We have embarked on a radical manner of dealing with the housing crisis.

Dr al-Kasm stressed that Syria wants Lebanon to be united in its land and people and desires that all of its people be equal in rights and duties. The prime minister added: We ask nothing from Lebanon except to lift the burden from us, which necessitates the return of accord among the Lebanese so that there will be a Lebanon that is united in territory and people, one in which all people are equal. We, in turn, will do all that we can to help the legitimate authority achieve that accord.

Dr al-Kasm said: We entered Lebanon at the request of the legitimate Lebanese authority and with a pan-Arab incentive, in order to achieve two aims: 1) To terminate the civil war, and we have succeeded in doing so. 2) To prevent its division, in order to achieve Lebanese accord. This has not been successful so far.

The prime minister added: Four years have passed and the Lebanese Government has not even achieved positive indications in this respect. What happened, in fact, is that we have retreated, not only politically but also militarily. The authority has not made a move and the same applies to the Lebanese citizen. I think that all the Lebanese have become satisfied and sleep quietly because there is a Syrian guard watching over them. They have become acclimated to the situation. But with the flood of slanders and accusations against this guard, using all possible words of blame, we had to say that this situation is neither acceptable nor reasonable. It is impossible for us to send our soldiers to Lebanon to become policemen or guards. Nevertheless, they are the target of accusations. We decided to withdraw and redeploy our forces, but then people got excited. Even those who called for the withdrawal of the Syrian occupation army now said that this is a plot against Lebanon.

Dr al-Kasm wondered: Is this logical? We support the legitimate authority, but on the condition that the legitimate authority support itself. Thus far, the authority has not implemented one article of the various resolutions, beginning with the Riyadh and Cairo summits, the Bayt ad-Din resolutions and ending with the Tunis resolutions, regardless of the summit meetings in Damascus and Latakia. Thus you have Sa'd Haddad doing as he likes.

The prime minister was asked: Is it possible to ask the Lebanese state to fight Sa'd Haddad; namely, to fight Israel? He answered: Let us leave Sa'd Haddad aside. We have asked the state to send the Lebanese army to Tyre, but this has not happened. It seems that the Lebanese state does not want to send the Lebanese army to Tyre.

In reply to a question on whether Syria insists on its decision to withdraw, he answered: The decision on redeployment is final. This decision may be delayed for some time, but it will be implemented due to pan-Arab necessities.

In reply to a question on the Lebanese Government's decision to send down its army, Dr al-Kasm said: It has appeared that not all of the people are satisfied with the army. In fact, the current structure of the army is not encouraging. We do not object to the soldiers, but to certain commanders of this army. This is the important thing. It is illogical that there is an authority in the western region of Beirut due to the presence of the Syrian forces and that, at the same time, there is no authority in the eastern region because such forces are not present there.

In reply to another question on the presence of the Lebanese army in some of the eastern regions of Beirut, Dr al-Kasm said: Yes, where the Israeli tanks are paraded near them without the army making a move. The Lebanese Army doesn't even have the authority to interfere in the military conflicts between the Phalangists and liberals. Isn't this rather strange? Dr al-Kasm added: I want to explain a fact that may be unknown to some: We do not want to destroy the Phalangists or the other rightist parties. This talk is unacceptable. The Phalangists and the others will be acceptable as long as they are accepted by the Lebanese people. Syria has no involvement in this, nor do we have business in this affair. But if these militias try to be the Israeli dagger in our back, it is then our right to strike at them and we will do so without hesitation.

The prime minister added: I do not know if there is a plot that works to strengthen one side rather than another. But I would like to stress here that if the militias try to strike at the western region, we will strike at them, because then the threads of the plot will be completed.

Dr al-Kasm said the following in reply to the question: What do you want from Lebanon? We want Lebanon to be united in its territory and people and we want all its people to be equal in rights and duties. That is all.

Regarding rumors circulated to the effect that Syria wants a security and economic agreement with Lebanon and that it wants one or both of the plains of Al-Biqa' and 'Akkar from Lebanon, Dr al-Kasm said: This talk is nonsense and is rejected in part and parcel. This is cheap propaganda, rumored by the enemies. To us, Lebanon is an independent and sovereign state. The prime minister wondered: What is the use of a security agreement as long as I have military presence in Lebanon? Is this logical and can I work for a change in the economic order in Lebanon? What is the advantage of that and what do I have to do with that? To say that we have greed for even a particle of soil in Lebanon is blasphemy and only part of the cheap propaganda and of the insults heard by the deterrent forces in Lebanon.

Regarding Syria's international policy, the prime minister said: We are a nonalined state and this is our foundation. You may ask, why didn't we go to the Islamabad conference, as we are an Islamic state. The fact that we did not go to Islamabad does not mean we accept the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. No, we reject any military intervention by the superpowers in the affairs of the small states. But why all this Islamic concern for Afghanistan?

We are a Muslim state and our territory is still occupied by Israel. Is holy Jerusalem, second most holy in Islam, which has been occupied by the Israeli enemy since 1967, less important than Afghanistan? The Afghan state has been communist for 2 years and the regime there--as we have learned--is the one who asked for the Soviet intervention. Therefore, the Islamabad conference was only a means of struggle between the two superpowers. Can Afghanistan be dearer to the Muslims than Jerusalem? Hebron in the occupied West Bank has been besieged for 2 weeks. Where is the Islamic states' concern then? We have our priorities, which require that we liberate our occupied territories and realize the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. These factors explain our practical stand, together with our insistence on rejecting the superpowers' intervention in small states' affairs. I assure you that the Soviets will not go beyond to other neighboring states.

The prime minister was told that some consider this as a Soviet polarization of Syria. He replied: The word polarization does not exist. We are friends to our own interests and the Soviet Union supports us and stands by our side. Why should we turn our backs on it? We are friends to the Soviet Union and this is a living fact.

He was asked: Perhaps you believe in Cuban President Fidel Castro's statement at the Havana nonalined conference, when he said that the Soviet Union is the only faithful and friendly force to the nonalined states. He replied: No, I do not advocate President Castro's statement. I advocate the late President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir, who said: We befriend those who befriend us and antagonize those who antagonize us. This is the correct concept, which is followed by Syria's policy. The United States supports Israel against us; the Soviet Union supports us with all its force. Who do you want me to side with, without falling into the orbit of either? When Europe, whose stands have recently changed a lot, leans to our side, we also lean toward it.

Asked about King Husayn's real role, the prime minister replied: The role that we know and that is obvious to us is that he does not accept the Camp David accords, including self-rule. I believe that this is in his interest, as well as that of his reign.

In regard to a question on the terrorist acts committed by the Muslim Brotherhood group and on whether these acts can be the work of the Muslim Brotherhood alone, Dr al-Kasm replied: This is one hundred percent correct [as heard]. President Hafiz al-Asad explained this fact when he said that Syria possesses documents on the brotherhood's relations with Israeli intelligence and we will disclose these documents at the proper time.

Replying to a question on the possible eruption of a Syrian-Israeli war in the near future, the prime minister expressed his doubt in this regard, but added that nevertheless all eventualities are possible and that we are alert to the possibility.

At the end of the interview, the AS-SAYYAD magazine asked Dr al-Kasm the following question: Can you talk about the Arab region in the 1980's. How do you view the region's situation in light of the dispute between the two superpowers? He answered, confirming that the situation is very difficult and that this is indisputable. Nevertheless, he said, we have to work. Arab solidarity is what is important, and, it is the guarantee in itself.

LIBYA

MARCH PROTESTS EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS

LD211330 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli this morning witnessed a big national march protesting the normalization of relations between the defeated Egyptian regime and the enemy and the French invasion of Tunisia, and in support of the uprising of the Tunisian Arab people which started in the town of Qafsah.

The march, in which a large group of the sons of the Arab people residing in the Jamahiriyah participated, began from Al-Khadra Square and passed through Al-Fatah Street on its way to the headquarters of the general secretariat of the Libyan-Egyptian Brotherhood Society.

The masses taking part in the march shouted unionist slogans and expressions of denunciation and condemnation of the grave capitulatory course pursued by the defeatist of Egypt following the normalization of relations with the Zionists.

Condemns French in Tunisia

LD212118 Tripoli JANA in English 1650 GMT 21 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--This morning Tripoli was the scene of a huge national march in denunciation of the normalization of relations between the defeated Egyptian regime and the French invasion of Tunisia and in support of the Tunisian Arab people's uprising which started off at Qafsah.

The march, in which took part masses of Arab nationals present in the Jamahiriyah, set off from the Green Square, heading towards the headquarters of the secretariat general of the Libyan-Egyptian Brotherhood Society, via Al-Fatah Street.

The marchers voiced unionist slogans and words of condemnation and reprobation for the grave capitulatory course followed by As-Sadat, in the face of the enemy and imperialism, especially after the normalization of relations. They also shouted for the life of the grand Al-Fatah revolution and its distinguished leadership, which from the start has endeavoured to achieve Arab unity, the only path to liberation and victory.

The marchers rallied before the headquarters of the Egyptian-Libyan Brotherhood Society and issued the following statement:

To the masses of our nation from the Gulf to the Atlantic Ocean.

The racist terrorist Zionists are moving freely inside Egypt. Groups of the Zionist tourists arrived in Cairo to witness the events of high treason, the day when the (Israeli) flag is hoisted over Cairo, marking the normalization of relations between the defeated Egyptian regime, by establishing political, diplomatic, economic and cultural relations, and also marking the entry of the Egyptian regime [into] the extreme stage of collaboration against the Arab nation in an attempt to force her to submission in the same way as the defeated regime.

The collaborator Egyptian regime betrayed the Egyptian army and the Arab nation and engineered with America behind the Egyptians' and the Arab nation's back, the 1973 war activating the situation. This had proved the treachery of the defeated regime.

The historical leadership of the grand Al-Fatah revolution has previously warned the Arab nation of the 1973 war and of what the defeated regime had kept as a secret.

The 101 km capitulatory agreement, Sinai treasonous and capitulatory accords, the [word indistinct] and the repeated exchange of visits by the defeated Egyptian president to occupied Palestine and of terrorist Begin to Cairo shows the submission and the continued treacheries engineered at the American 'black house' and "Stable David" which all affirm capitulation in the absence of a true peace based on justice and the return of the Palestinian people to their homeland.

The defeated Egyptian regime also schemed an aggressive alliance with the Zionists and Americans, giving up the Egyptian territories and the army establishment to U.S. troops to build their military bases. The regime agreed to play the policeman role for neocolonialism against the Arab nation and the liberation movement in Africa. As-Sadat has reached the climax of his treachery by the normalization of relations with (Israel) and opening the enemy embassy in the heart of Cairo, and ignoring the principles and the feelings of the Arabs and Muslims and denying the Arab nation's rights as well [words indistinct] of thousands of martyrs who fought for thirty years for the liberation of the lands not for the Zionist flag to be hoisted over Cairo.

The Arab unionist masses in the jamahiriyah who reject the capitulatory solution would like to draw the attention of the Arab people of Egypt to the dangers aimed at isolating them from their nation.

We are convinced that the people's revolution is the future revolution and the revolutionary committees are the tools of the revolution and of the masses to abolish the arbitrary authorities which rule the Arab people. So we call upon the Egyptian Arab people within and outside the country to set up their revolutionary committees everywhere in the world which are to include the revolutionary forces to agitate the Egyptian people to possess power, wealth and arms and not providing an opportunity for the fascist defeated regime to use his power and commit treacheries.

The masses of this unionist march announce their belief and adherence to the dictum: "No revolutionary outside the revolutionary committee" to unify the potential of the Arab nation in general and the Egyptian people in particular against the defeated regime.

The masses of this march also call upon the freeman of the Arab nation to set up their revolutionary committees if they are genuine about their aims and principles, aimed at abolishing all kinds of organizations and parties, because the third universal theory proved to be the way for salvation.

And we draw the attention of the Arab masses that the individual revolutionary action does not give any results and any revolutionary force should join the new frame which is the revolutionary committee for a more efficient action to make revolutionary changes and victory against anti-freedom and the capitulationists.

The Arab people of Egypt do not stand alone in their battle against the defeated Egyptian regime and the capitulatory course because the Arab nation, in the foremost of which are the people of the Jamahiriyah are with them in such a battle against the Egyptian regime, the enemy occupying Palestine and neo-colonialism.

Today the Egyptian people stand by their brethren, the Libyan people in their confrontation of the military French invasion waged by colonialism against the Tunisian people. On this historical occasion the unionist Arab masses have decided to participate in this march of honour, appreciation and immortalization of the popular uprising by the freemen of the Tunisian Arab people in Qafsah. Sidi Street is renamed Qafsah Street where the masses stand in condemnation of all defeatist and reactionary solutions as well as colonialist interventions in the Arab world aiming at usurping the Arab man's right and destroying his entity.

Today the Arab masses are more convinced that the peoples' will cannot be suppressed or defeated when their revolutionary forces join ranks with the revolutionary committees to incite the masses to spark off the popular revolution. The march of the unionist Arab masses over the grand Al-Fatah land denounces and condemns the treasonous course followed by the defeated Egyptian regime and affirm on this day that the only course to transfer national Arab resistance from demonstrations method to that of combatting revolutionary action for liberation is the course of immediately joining of revolutionary committees in order to work among the people's masses, to enlighten and incite them to spark off popular revolution for the aim of the Arab people's possession of power, wealth and arms.

Long live the struggle of our Arab nation's masses, and a salute for the revolutionaries of our Arab nation who reject capitulation and abandonment and who start now the formation of revolutionary committees, the tool of preaching for the new civilization and national and religious unity for the honour of Arabism and Islam.

Death and shame to capitulationists and their Zionist and colonialist masters. The march of unionist Arab masses on the grand Al-Fatah land who reject capitulationist solutions and the treasons of the defeated Egyptian regime. [as received]

JANA CARRIES PLO COMMUNIQUE ON FRENCH 'INVASION'

LD211540 Tripoli JANA in English 1448 GMT 21 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The PLO Political Committee issued a communique on the French invasion of Tunisia. It reads as follows:

The distribution of roles between the various parties of the reactionary, Zionist colonialist camp in the difficult current situation is now clear. At a time when American imperialism backed by the treacherous "Stable David" alliance is concentrating its military forces in the Indian Ocean, French colonialism moves in Africa to practise its old role against the peoples of this continent.

In this respect it is not enough for colonialism to indirectly support the reactionary regimes allied to it in Africa, it rather resorts to direct intervention and invasion against the peoples of this continent. The role of the French forces in Chad is secret to nobody.

Likewise, their delaying all agreements reached by the different parties of Chad with the assistance of a number of African states, the Jamahiriyah in particular, is well-known. And so are France's invasion of Zaire and Central Africa, its barbarous aggressive actions against the Arab peoples in the Western Sahara as well as its open military intervention in Tunisia where the French air force, land forces and navy were sent to undermine the popular uprising in brave Qafsah and to protect the repressive terrorist regime of Tunisia.

The communique continued: We in the Political Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, while expressing our indignation at and condemnation of the French military invasion of Tunisia, stress that the popular movement is more powerful than its brutal colonialist opponents whatever their military might. The progressive forces in every part of the Arab world are required to condemn the French invasion of Tunisia. They are asked to realize that such battles launched against them in different parts of the Arab world are designed to divide the Arab national efforts to encircle all the Arab progressive colonialist regimes and forces.

The French invasion of Tunisia is not led against Tunisia and its people alone. It aims at starting battles with the Arab nation as a whole and is designed to undermine the grand Al-Fatah revolution.

Moreover, this invasion is directed against the Algerian revolution and basically intended to contain the Arab progressive national forces in order to ensure that the "Stable David" agreements will be enforced.

JANA: POLICE REPORTEDLY OCCUPY TUNIS UNIVERSITY

LD211626 Tripoli JANA in English 1503 GMT 21 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tunis, February 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The oppressive police of the Tunisian puppet regime cordoned off the University of Tunis and prevented students from entering.

A Tunisian student said that the police have occupied the university. This led the students to call for maintaining the strike and [words indistinct] popular uprising in Tunisia.

The Tunisian regime tried to bring friction between the students and their lecturers when Hedi Nouira received representatives of the university staff who were forced to see him in an attempt to calm the students' rage.

The regime's mass media falsely reported a statement on behalf of the lecturers indicating that they strongly denounce the students uprising.

JANA REPORTS PEOPLE'S CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS ON TUNISIA

LD211954 Tripoli JANA in English 1700 GMT 21 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Banghazi, February 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The Basic People's Congress of Banghazi central held an emergency session last night at the people's theatre, and issued the following resolutions:

Within the context of the unionist Libyan Arab People's commitments towards their brethren in the Arab nation in general, and more particularly in Tunisia, which is currently the scene of a popular revolution by freemen amongst this Arab people against the decaying regime, the Basic People's Congress of Banghazi central held an extraordinary session on the evening of Wednesday, 20 February 1980, to discuss the false accusations made by the reactionaries of the puppet regime ruling the Tunisian protectorate against the Jamahiriyah and the leader of its revolution and to consider the open French invasion of Tunisia to protect the falling regime. The congress has passed the following resolutions:

1. To fully condemn the ailing Tunisian regime and its desperate attempts to suppress the people's revolution which sparked off in Qafsah.

2. To condemn the open French invasion of Tunisia and warn for [as received] an immediate withdrawal, stressing that the uprising is genuine and that there is no justification for the presence of French, American and Moroccan forces in Tunisia.

3. To confirm our full support to the revolutionary forces in Tunisia financially and militarily until the freedom of the brotherly Tunisian people is achieved.

4. To confine our warning to France, for the time being at least, to a demand for the withdrawal of her troops from Tunisian territories and an end to her siding with one party against the other in the conflict which is an internal affair that does not affect France, stressing that her interests in the area will be threatened if she went as far as declaring a war against her to defend the security of the Jamahiriyah.

5. To open our borders before the Tunisian workers.

6. To emphasize that the popular uprising in Qafsah and other uprisings and revolutions in other parts of the world is a success for the third universal theory laid down by the grand Al-Fatah revolution for humanity as a final emancipation from all dictatorial ruling tools and unjust laws in the socioeconomic sectors. This theory never meant a direct intervention by the Jamahiriyah as alleged by the trumpets of reaction and colonialism.

7. To confirm the statement made by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the grand Al-Fatah revolution, to the French news agency, A.F.P., which revealed the facts of events in the protectorate of Tunisia.

8. To call for a merger between the Jamahiriyah and Algeria as the nucleus of the Islamic Arab unity.

9. To place the Libyan Arab mass media under the disposal of the Tunisians in the Jamahiriyah and refrain from answering recriminations of the Tunisian regime as we have a revolutionary culture, but to continue the deterrent scientific reply.

10. To open our borders before the Tunisian popular resistance against the puppet regime.

11. No reconciliation with the Tunisian puppet regime.

12. To send popular delegations to the Arab and African countries as well as France and non-aligned countries to explain the seriousness of the French intervention in Tunisia and the grave effects which might arise from such an act and expose the bad intentions of the U.S.-French coordination with certain puppet regimes in the region, such a plan which is designed to divide the region, control it and restore the 19th century situation.

13. To be committed to immediately implement the resolutions of the communique of the third meeting of the revolutionary committees.

14. To renew allegiance to the leader of the grand Al-Fatah revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi as an answer to the fabrications of the Tunisian regime's propaganda, and pledge our support to him as leader and struggler for man's freedom.

AL-QADHDHAFI'S VISIT TO FRG POSTPONED

LD211444 Tunis TAP in English 1401 GMT 21 Feb 80 LD

["Pool" item]

[Text] Bonn, Feb 21 (TAP)--Answering Wednesday a question relating to the Libyan aggression against the city of Qafsah during a meeting with foreign press representatives in Bonn, West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt said he did not know all about the matter. "However," he said, "I take this opportunity to inform you that we have just decided to postpone Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's visit to the F.R.G. in consequence of the aggression against Tunisia.

"Therefore I invite you to draw the conclusions of this stand on the part of the Federal Government which thus confirms its support, like France and the United States, to Tunisia with whom we keep very friendly relations."

ECONOMY SECRETARY RECEIVES BULGARIAN TRADE MINISTER

LD211820 Tripoli JANA in English 1655 GMT 21 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The secretary of the General People's Committee for Economy Mr. Abu Zayd 'Umar Durdah, this morning received the Bulgarian Trade Minister Mr Khristo Khristov and his accompanying delegation who are currently visiting the Jamahiriyah.

The undersecretary and several heads of departments at the economy secretariat have attended the meeting which focused on the promotion of bilateral commercial cooperation and the expansion of trade exchanges. They also have decided to hold an exhibition of Bulgarian products in the Jamahiriyah at the end of this year.

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES CHADIAN MESSAGE OF THANKS

LD212016 Tripoli JANA in English 1659 GMT 21 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The leader of the grand Al-Fatah revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, received a message of gratitude from the Chadian people and their revolutionary leadership "FROLINAT" praising the efforts rendered by the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to realize freedom and national unity for the Chadian people.

The message also hailed the stands of the Libyan Arab people in the face of the colonialist conspiracies in Africa.

MAURITANIA

FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS FOR MOROCCO

AB211458 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 21 Feb 80 AB

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Mr Mohamed el Mokhtar Ould Zamel, left Nouakchott this morning for Morocco. He is carrying a message from the CMSN [Military Committee for National Salvation] chairman and head of state and government to His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco.

MOROCCO

TUNISIAN COMMANDO LEADER ADMITS BEING TRAINED BY LIBYA

LD211050 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0930 GMT 21 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tunis--Ahmad al-Merghini, commander of the commandos which attacked the Tunisian town of Qafsah revealed that he had received training at the camps of the so-called POLISARIO Front in Tindouf and in one of the Libyan barracks.

In a statement to Tunisian television he pointed out that we went to Tripoli in 1976 and from there he went to the camp of the so-called POLISARIO, together with five other Tunisians where he received his training for 4 months before returning to Tripoli.

Al-Merghini explained that the Libyan authorities had concentrated 1,550 people of various nationalities, including 160 Tunisians, at a barrack 30 km from Tripoli. He added that in Tripoli he met the Tunisian 'Izz ad-Din ash-Sharif, alias Ash-Sharif al-A'war who was also arrested in the wake of the attack on Qafsah. The latter will be tried on the charges of being responsible for the transportation of weapons from Libya and for the material organization of the operation of the attack on Qafsah.

On the other hand Al-Mergheni confirmed that the weapons used in the attack were obtained from the Libyan Arab Liaison Bureau.

ENVOY TO TUNIS REPORTS ON TALKS WITH NOUIRA

LD211348 Rabat MAP in English 1213 GMT 21 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tunis, Feb 21 (MAP)--Mr Mohamed Tazi, Moroccan ambassador to Tunis met here Wednesday with Mr Hedi Nouira, Tunisian premier.

At the end of the meeting, Mr Tazi stated that he conveyed a verbal message from King Hassan II of Morocco to Mr Hedi Nouira.

"Talks", he said, "focused on bilateral relations and means of strengthening them, as well as the situation in the Maghreb".

The two men also reviewed the issues of the last meeting of Organization of African Unity (OAU), at Addis Ababa, as well as the special meeting of the league scheduled for next March in Tunis.

On the other hand, the Moroccan ambassador stated that Mr Nouira expressed the respect and the consideration of the Tunisian president, Mr Habib Bourguiba, his government and his people for the support of King Hassan II of Morocco, at the moment when Tunisia faces aggression against its sovereignty and its territorial unity.

The Tunisian premier also expressed satisfaction at the support of the Moroccan people, parties and press, that he considers as "a prolonging of the joint combat led by the two brotherly countries for their freedom and independence".

Regarding Klibi's scheduled visit to Morocco, the Moroccan ambassador indicated that it will soon intervene, and that during his stay in Morocco, he will be received by King Hassan II.

KING HASSAN'S REMARKS CITED AT SAUDI PRESS CONFERENCE

ID161510 Rabat MAP in English 1340 GMT 16 Feb 80 ID

[Text] At-Ta'if, Feb 16 (MAP)--King Hassan II held here Saturday an international press conference. As an opening address, the Moroccan sovereign said that "it is superfluous to express our joy at finding ourselves in a brotherly country among our brothers."

"Our joy has two sources and fulfills two desires. The first is to meet with our brothers in Saudi Arabia in order to express to King Khalid, his crown prince, his government and his people our brotherly feelings and thanks for their hospitality. The second is dictated by the need of consulting and concerting in conformity with the Islamic religion. Thus, after talks between the two parties, we realized anew that between Morocco and Saudi Arabia there is not a single divergence," the sovereign added. Asked about the committee of 'Al-Quds' [Jerusalem] and its plans, King Hassan II said that it will meet next March 11 and that "we should show the same solidarity toward Al-Quds as we did during the Islamabad conference."

Asked why the Sahara question was posed only after it was recovered by Morocco, the sovereign said: "I think that the question is clearer now because Morocco which did not accept that Afghanistan be occupied, has been trying for four years to prevent that another Afghanistan being established on its southern flank.... If we allow materialistic and non-Islamic regimes to form an obstacle between us and Senegal, Mali, Niger, Chad, Guinea, Nigeria and other African countries, we would have failed in our mission and betrayed the historical duty entrusted upon us by the Mashriq [the Arab east] of preserving Islam, extending its influence and deepening its comprehension," King Hassan II added.

Answering a question about Morocco's stand concerning the establishment of a dialogue with Algeria and the 'Polisario,' King Hassan II stated: "We have never avoided dialogue with Algeria, because we believe that the conflict is on between Morocco and Algeria. As to discuss with a non-recognized third party, Morocco cannot hold talks with phantoms."

As to the question of why, at the African summit of Monrovia, African countries sided with Algeria despite the fact that Moroccan claims were just and clear, the sovereign said: "We believe that if an African summit were to be held now to discuss the Sahara question, the vote will be the opposite of that of Monrovia."

"We could have opposed the inscription of the Sahara question because the summits of Mauritius and Khartoum clearly recommended that this question should be discussed at an extraordinary summit after being examined by the wise [men]," he went on.

Asked if the Moroccan-Saudi talks envisaged a common pressure on the United States to make them change their attitude toward the Middle East and the Palestinians' rights, King Hassan II pointed out "that no pressure is needed when a state or a group of states is subject to the pressure of events themselves....No matter how much we would like to exert pressure, it is not through pressure that conviction is born."

Regarding the possibility of setting up an Islamic military alliance to protect Moslem countries, the sovereign indicated that "in some cases, alliances could be efficient and useful if the allies on both sides are of equal military forces. But if a bloc, regardless of its human potential and its conviction, is allied against a destructive nuclear force, it is obvious that such an alliance is more a source of catastrophies and losses than a means of repelling danger... You should know that a condemnation like that of Islamabad deeply touched the Russians. We should not forget that one-fifth of the Soviet population is Moslem and that the USSR cannot ignore this fact. For this reason, I am convinced that the Soviet Union will withdraw from Afghanistan. Anyhow, if I have to regret something, it is not the condemnation of the Soviet Union, but the absence of some Islamic countries from the Islamabad conference. The USSR can say what is wants. It is not a Moslem country, but some Islamic countries that refrain from attending such a conference should be condemned because they created a precedent," the sovereign stated further.

Asked to comment on the aggression perpetrated against the Tunisian town of Qafsah, King Hassan II answered "I cannot comment on the events in Tunisia better than the Tunisian officials. President Bourguiba's last announcement discloses the hidden elements of this affair. For me, President Qadhdhafi is a 'broker of unity' who desperately runs after unity. Unity for Qadhdhafi is not conceived as fusion, but as absorption."

Speaking about Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, the sovereign added that "he is a man whose personality is difficult for me to analyse. However, God is patient, but never neglects. It is up to God to judge him. I say this knowing that he wastes daily enormous sums to kill the sons of Morocco in the Moroccan Sahara. I also know that he largely finances the destablization of certain Arab countries and recently he wanted to swallow a peaceful neighbour whose only fault was to refuse to alienate its identity."

The conference was attended by Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed and Prince Moulaye Abdullah, as well as the Moroccan delegation.

WESTERN SAHARA

SDAR COMMUNIQUE ON ATTACK AGAINST MOROCCAN FORCES

ID201550 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 20 Feb 80 ID

[Text] The Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Ministry of Defense last night issued a new military communique. It stressed that the vanguards of the Saharan liberation army launched new operations against the Moroccan Royal expansionist forces. The statement explained that following the defeat inflicted on the forces of aggression and expansion in Bojador, Saharan vanguards launched a new assault against the Moroccan forces in (Ruways Subayt) south of Uad Oraa, where a fortified post of the royal forces was exposed to concentrated strafing by heavy weapons on 15 February. The operation resulted in the destruction of the fortifications of the post and inflicted human and material losses, with 7 solderies killed and more than 10 others wounded.

WEIZMAN DENIES REPORT ON NUCLEAR TEST

TA220652 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Feb 80 TA

[Text] U.S. State Department officials have reacted with skepticism to a CBS report saying that Israel tested a nuclear device in South Africa last September. The CBS reporter in Tel Aviv, Dan Raviv, filed the story from Rome. It dealt with an as yet unpublished book by two Israelis on the history of atomic weapons production in Israel. Raviv said unnamed informed sources had confirmed to CBS that Israel exploded a nuclear device in South Africa last year with the help of that country's government.

A State Department spokesman told our reporter, Connie Lonn, in Washington that there was no evidence of that at all. He said that an investigation by the best American scientists had failed to conclude that mystery signals picked up by satellites in September were even caused by a nuclear explosion at all.

In a reaction just in: Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman says that there is no truth or foundation at all to the CBS allegation.

South African Denial

TA220912 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 22 Feb 80 TA

[Excerpt] The South African Government has completely denied the report published in the United States last night about a nuclear experiment conducted by Israel, about 6 months ago, in cooperation with South Africa. This is an unfounded report, said Chairman of the South African Atomic Energy Committee Dr Dawid de Villiers in a telephone conversation with our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami.

AS-SADAT SAYS ISRAEL, EGYPT ON 'IRREVERSIBLE COURSE'

TA220805 Jerusalem POST in English 22 Feb 80 p 1 TA

[Text] Cairo--Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat yesterday declared that he has no intention of backtracking on any of his peace commitments to Israel. He added that he had placed his country's relations with Israel on an irreversible course.

As-Sadat made the statement to top aides at the end of a meeting with the Secretariat of his ruling party, the National Democrats, which dominates the country's 392-member Parliament. His remarks coincided with mounting calls by opposition factions for Egyptians to stage anti-Israel demonstrations to protest next week's exchange of ambassadors.

The two states this week established their first embassies in each other's territory, as agreed to in the peace treaty signed last March.

As-Sadat pledged to forge ahead with the implementation of all peace agreements with Israel, although sources reported him to have stressed that he would not go out of the way to establish a special relationship between the two countries. But the sources also quoted As-Sadat as stressing that Israel would not be treated differently from the 120 countries with which Cairo maintains ambassadorial ties.

The Egyptian leader was reported to have commended Israel for having met its own peace commitments toward Egypt. But at the same time he expressed his disappointment with Jerusalem's settlement policy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Sources here said that the president had instructed Defense Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali to take up Egypt's concern over the Israeli settlements at talks he is scheduled to hold with his Israeli counterpart, 'Ezer Weizman, next week. 'Ali is scheduled to leave for Israel on Monday.

As-Sadat insists that Israel should cease setting up settlements as long as the West Bank and Gaza autonomy negotiations are proceeding.

Associates said that As-Sadat was now giving much importance to next week's talks between the chief autonomy negotiators--Egypt's Premier Mustafa Khalil, Interior Minister Yosef Burg and U.S. presidential Envoy Sol Linowitz--in The Hague.

DIFFICULTIES REMAIN IN MEDIA RELATIONS WITH EGYPT

TA220825 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Feb 80 p 1 TA

[By 'Oded Zaray]

[Text] In the week since the opening of the Israeli Embassy in Cairo and on the eve of the arrival of Ambassador Ben-Elisar, Egyptian television--the mass media par excellence --does not show Israel on the map of the Middle East. On the map that is shown on the small screen there is no mention of Israel's existence despite the fact that the report being broadcast deals with Israel and discusses "Peace Now's campaigns and demonstrations against settlements." The map only includes Jordan, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip while Israel's territory is left empty without any clearly defined borders. The only change that has been made in the wake of HA'ARETZ' raising the issue several times is that the name Palastin, which used to appear on the map, has been removed.

With the arrival of Dr Ben-Elisar the day after tomorrow, the validity of the residence visas granted to the six Israeli journalists who came to Cairo this week will expire. If the situation is not remidied by tomorrow the journalists will have to return to Israel in the plane that brings the ambassador. All contacts that the HA'ARETZ correspondent has had with Egyptian authorities on behalf of the journalists--against the background of prior agreements with official Israeli elements--have been unsuccessful. The Israeli journalists have also not been equipped with the cards carried by foreign journalists and, therefore, they are not invited to official briefings. And while the normalization continues, disturbances to the Voice of Israel's Arabic broadcasts to Egypt also continue.

MA'ARIV QUESTIONS EARLY EVACUATION OF SINAI

TA211043 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Feb 80 p 5 TA

[Editorial: "The Test of Peace"]

[Text] If the reports are correct that Egypt has asked U.S. assistant secretary of defense, McGiffert, to speed up the establishment of the two new airfields in the Negev in order to permit the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai before the date set in the peace treaty, it would be advisable for Jerusalem to make it plain to Cairo and Washington in good time that this cannot be.

The date set in the Camp David agreements for the next stage of the withdrawal was not solely determined for technical reasons and President as-Sadat cannot be suspected of not having understood this correctly. Even if it were possible to complete the construction of the airfields in less time than that predicted in advance by the estimations of U.S. experts, Israel would have to insist upon a minimum period of time between taking up positions in the Al-'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line and the return to the international border. Such a minimum period of time is necessary for Israel for the purpose of the new military deployment in the Negev and, even more than this, it is necessary as a testing period for the peace itself.

Even if we accept the soothing words coming from Egypt in recent days, to the effect that Vice Premier Dr at-Tuhami's ideas and statements are "unusual" and do not at all reflect the thoughts and views of President as-Sadat and the rest of the Egyptian elite; even if we are convinced beyond any shadow of a doubt that the protest actions of the opposition party in Egypt--whose latest expressions took the form of flying Palestinian flags in the suburbs of Cairo--are also unusual and do not reflect the genuine mood of the Egyptian nation and its youth; even if we accept, without any question or complaint, the evaluations of experts that even if something happens to As-Sadat, the peace process will continue, since it is both the genuine desire and the basic interest of the Egyptian nation; even if we accept all of this, it would be better for the peace to prove itself in the tests it can expect over the next 2 years, both in the bilateral relations between us and Egypt and against the background of the existing and expected events in the world and in the area.

Israel has already taken upon itself far more risks than what even the most cautious defense experts would have imagined several years ago, not to mention the risk in the field of energy involved in returning the oilfields--first those in Abu Rudays and then in 'Alma.

There is no justification for us to agree to a demand or proposal to advance the completion of the evacuation of Sinai--even if the two new airfields are ready before the time set for their completion.

The normalization has only just begun. It must be fostered, advanced and consolidated extremely well for fear that it might be harmed by difficulties and crises which we may yet expect over the coming years.

UNITED STATES ACCUSED OF COMPLICATING AUTONOMY TALKS

TA211157 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Feb 80 p 3 TA

[By 'Oded Granot]

[Excerpts] This time difficulties have also surfaced in the deliberations of the working group dealing with the issue of the elections to the administrative council of the autonomy, because the discussion focused on one of the problems over which it is hardest to achieve agreement--the electoral system.

Once more Israeli elements emphasized that, while the head of the Egyptian delegation, 'Abd ar-Rizq, in his concluding remarks, dwelt on the fact that tangible results could not be expected from every meeting--and the importance lies in the very fact of the constant effort made in the deliberations--it was actually the Americans who, from time to time, introduced superfluous tension into the deliberations when they put forward proposals which had not been coordinated in advance, at least not with the Israeli side.

Under these circumstances of a continuation of the dispute over the matter of the autonomy council's authority, elements from Israel would prefer to wait and see whether there will be any breakthrough in the talks by the delegation heads of the autonomy plenum, to be held in Europe next week. This is in spite of the fact that the working groups agreed in Tel Aviv last night that the deliberations regarding the division of authority would continue at the next meeting, to be held shortly in Cairo. The precise date will be established during the meeting in Europe.

The MA'ARIV political correspondent adds: The Americans, who are dealing with the organization of the meeting on the level of delegations heads to the autonomy talks, are now proposing that the next meeting should be held in The Hague, the capital of Holland, at the end of this month.

Before that three other proposals were put forward regarding the site of the next meeting between the delegation heads--Paris, London and Zurich. The spokesman of Israel's delegation to the talks, Dan Patir, assumes that The Hague is actually the "final station" in the United States' search for a suitable place for the autonomy talks, outside Egypt and Israel.

The next meeting will be held on 27 March and before that the U.S. representative, Ambassador Sol Linowitz, is putting forward ideas for advancing the talks on substantive issues.

REACTION TO U.S.-EGYPTIAN ARMS DEAL

Concern in Jerusalem

TA220949 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Feb 80 p 1 TA

[By Arye Tzimuqi and Eytan Haber]

[Excerpt] Concern has been expressed in Jerusalem over the possibility that the United States will supply Egypt with the F-15 in addition to the F-16 and other sophisticated weapons. However, Jerusalem is divided over the manner in which Israel should react to the expected arms deals between Egypt and the United States. There are those who maintain that the Americans should be made aware of Israel's views about the dangers in these deals going though and the fears in Jerusalem over the question of why Cairo needs such sophisticated weaponry.

The defense establishment does not share this view. Defense officials believe that the deals issue should be dealt with quietly through diplomatic channels.

MA'ARIV Comments

TA211218 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Feb 80 p 17 TA

[Ya'aqov Erez article: "Weizman: It Cannot Be Prevented; Gur; It Must Not Be Passed Over in Silence"]

[Text] F-16 aircraft will be given to Egypt by the United States. The Soviet Union has promised Syria two wings of MiG 27's. Jordan is receiving new Chieftain tanks from Britain. From this aspect, then, the countries hostile to Israel, and Egypt as well, in whose capital the Israeli Embassy was opened this week, have joined together into one camp.

The common denominator of the Arab camp with all its varieties--the acceleration of the military weapons procurement--is causing concern to military experts in Israel. Only a few members of the Knesset, who are in the "hawk" camp, have spoken out publicly, however, against the latest initiative by the United States. They have remained isolated in the campaign, and have not gained support from any government minister.

Former chief-of-staff reserves, Maj Gen Mota Gur says: "In my opinion, not only must we not pass over this in silence, but we must publicly, clearly and unequivocally analyze the worsening situation that has taken place in the balance of forces between us and the Egyptians and the Arab world. We must sharpen, for public opinion in the United States, the justification for reducing the Egyptian Army as a result of the peace process."

In oppositon to this, there is the position of Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman. In Weizman's opinion, it is impossible to prevent the supply of U.S. arms to Egypt. The question confronting Israel, according to this position, involves the quality of the weapons their quantity and the timing of the supplies. "Maybe we can argue with them about this," Weizman believes, according to an official source in the Ministry of Defense. 'Ezer Weizman's position is that if Egypt really does receive modern U.S. arms, Israel will demand that the military balance be kept by a parallel supply to the IDF. The defense minister believes that we must not only mention Israel's weakness, but it is essential not to ignore the existing reality, that is--the IDF's power.

The differences of opinion do not only focus on ways to react. It emerges that a new military reality is being increasingly built up in the countries of the region. The confrontation countries' military strength has been greatly increased over the last few months and is now accelerating, and Egypt is also joining now, in spite of the peace, in this acceleration.

"This fact must cause us great concern because, from the viewpoint of Egypt's potential future enemies, Israel still stands in the first rank," Gur says. Other experts, who are in the defense establishment, disagree with this evaluation. They claim that Israel may find itself an ally of Egypt and standing at its side against events in the region. Therefore, these experts believe, Israel must not come out against the military equipping of the land of the Nile, but should be industrious in continuing to strengthen the IDF.

"Why is Egypt not reducing its army?" Mota Gur says: "In the military negotiations we held we put pressure on them to agree to reduce their army. Not only did they not do so on the claim that this was indeed their intention for the future, 1 month ago the Egyptian minister of defense, General 'Ali, even declared that despite the peace agreement, he intended to enlarge the Egyptian Army both quantitatively and qualitatively. Had there been a quantitative reduction, it would have been possible to understand the desire for a qualitative increase. But under our very eyes a process of both qualitative and quantitative enlargement is going on."

In the field--experts say--there are signs to the contrary. Egypt intends to decrease its army. The Egyptians are removing most of their forces from the Canal Zone and moving divisions to the Nile Delta. Even their deployment in Zone A in the Sinai, where, in accordance with the peace agreement, Egypt is permitted to maintain one division--is not being rushed, but is proceeding incrementally. To this day Egypt is maintaining fewer forces than are permitted in the Sinai.

However, Mota Gur says, "with the completion of the withdrawal and the abandoning of the airfields, the combination of Egyptian Phantoms and the modern aircraft of the F-16 type promised them, and perhaps F-15's as well, will become an efficient explosive power capable of penetrating the State of Israel."

Superficially Egypt cannot have any military use of the airfields in the Sinai as determined by the peace agreement. A few weeks ago a high ranking Egyptian official said: "It is true that we received the Refidim Airfield in a good condition, but not one of our fighter planes can land or take off from there." And if the agreement is violated and Egypt can make operational use of the Sinai airfields? This is where the danger lies--exposed to the Egyptian Army's new military weapons and that of the other Arab armies.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT COMMENTS ON CARTER'S ULTIMATUM

TA211030 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Feb 80 p 2 TA

[Editorial: "The Ultimatum Which Was Rejected"]

[Text] The ultimatum Carter gave Brezhnev--to get out of Afghanistan or take upon himself the results of the boycott likely to be imposed upon the Olympics by the United States and the countries due to join in this step--came to an end yesterday. And the result is before us: The ultimatum had no effect and Russia has taken upon itself the risk connected with the boycott of the Olympics.

There are three reasons for this: 1) The weakness the United States has demonstrated in Iran, a weakness which only strengthened Moscow's intransigence even more; 2) the revelation, which has ceased to be a secret, that the United States is not prepared for a fight of global dimensions; and 3) the United States' lack of success in its campaign of persuasion in Europe, most of which has remained outside the sphere of the U.S. boycott of the Olympics.

These three things could not have had no effect on the weight of the Soviet threats, since the Soviet Union is a sober power which acts in accordance with the real balance of forces; and when the balance of forces is in its favor, its behavior is more intransigent. And the future, too, depends not on the interpower dispute, but on the degree of general U.S. recovery.

BEGIN COMMENTS ON LEBANON, EGYPT'S ARMAMENT

TA211555 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 21 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Today, Prime Minister Menahem Begin visited the Chariot [Merkhava] tank production line. During his visit he spoke about the security situation in the north. We have a problem in the north, Prime Minister Menahem Begin said today. The problem arises from Syria's troop movements and its attacks on the Christians in Lebanon. We have taken precautionary measures. Our military correspondent, Gad Becker, reports on Begin's remarks. [begin recording]

[Begin] There is a problem in the north and we have taken precautionary measures. We hope that the calm in the north will not be disturbed, but there is the problem of Syrian troop movements and attacks on the Christians, with respect to whom we have a clear moral commitment. Therefore, we are on our guard.

[Becker] Does Israel's commitment, which the prime minister spoke about, also apply to the Christians in the north [of Lebanon]? Begin replied: Undoubtedly.

The U.S. assistant secretary of defense arrived in Israel today after visiting Egypt, where he discussed Egyptian military procurements from the United States. Standing near the Chariot tank production line, the prime minister was asked for his views on the flow of U.S. weapons to Egypt.

[Begin] This is a problem which we are discussing all the time. We have signed a peace agreement. The United States is supplying arms to Egypt because for years the Soviet Union has not been supplying arms to Egypt. However, we have a problem with respect to quantitiies and quality and we are making this view heard.

Security Sources on Lebanon

TA211600 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 21 Feb 80 TA

[Text] The new Syrian deployment in Lebanon is a defensive deployment at this stage. However, today security sources told our political correspondent, Yosi 'Abadi, that such a deployment can easily be changed into an offensive deployment. Despite this, Israel continues to follow a policy of restraint because of, among other things, the development of the normalization between Israel and Egypt. At the same time, Israel is very concerned about the accelerated arming of the terrorists by the Syrians. The security sources stressed that more tangible action against the terrorists might lead to war, which Israel wishes to avoid at this stage.

BEGIN CALLS ON OLYMPIC COMMITTEE TO BOYCOTT GAMES

TA220654 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Begin has called on the Israeli Olympic Committee to decide in favor of a boycott of the Moscow Olympics. Begin added that all the democratic countries should do the same. The Israeli committee has not yet decided what stand it will take toward the Moscow games. Begin was speaking last night at the Knesset at the opening of an International Conference of Reformed Jews. He said that though the U.S. decision to boycott the Moscow games had not stopped the Soviet aggression in Afghanistan, it was a moral decision.

NRP MINISTERS DENY EFFORTS TO DEPOSE BURG

TA221228 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 22 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Ministers Zvulun Hammer and Aharon Abu-Hatzera have vehemently denied allegations that their faction signed an agreement against Minister Burg and his faction. Both ministers say that this is an unfounded report stemming from the present ongoing struggle within the NRP.

Our correspondent Amnon Nadav notes that both ministers have also rejected claims that their factions agree on the [NRP] Knesset list.

TERRORISTS EXCHANGED FOR CAPTIVE LEBANESE DOCTOR

TA221220 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 22 Feb 80 TA

[Text] A Lebanese physician held prisoner by the terrorists in Lebanon was traded today through the Red Cross for two terrorists held by Israel. The announcement stated that the female physician has been held prisoner by the terrorists for a long time. She was charged with collaborating with Israeli intelligence. The terrorists had almost completed their sentence. Our correspondent notes that no further details were supplied.

MONETARY SYSTEM TO BE CHANGED 24 FEB

TA221343 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 22 Feb 80 TA

[Text] It is now being reported that on Sunday [24 February] the pound will be replaced by a new Israeli coin to be called a shekel [name of monetary unit of Biblical times]. Its value will be equivalent to today's 10 Israeli pounds. The shekel will be equal to 100 new agorot. At the same time, the pound will continue to be a legal currency for a transition period until it is absorbed by the Bank of Israel, which will be quite some time. The public is asked not to rush to change the currency presently in their possession. The government will not collect any tax in lieu of the change.

When the new monetary system goes into effect, the Bank of Israel will issue five new bills which will be identical, both in shape and color, to the old bills, in denominations of: 1 shekel, 5 shekels, 10 shekels--the well-known Herzl [whose picture is presently depicted on the 100 pound bill]--50 shekels and 100 shekels. The latter will depict the picture of Ze'ev Jabotinsky.

When the new monetary system goes into effect, the old coins--1 agora, 5 agorot, 10 agorot and 25 agorot--will be cancelled. However, it will be possible to exchange them for new coins. During the transition period, every cheque and all other bank documents should be written in the present pound and agorot system and not in shekels. Whoever writes a cheque on an old checkbook in shekels will take upon himself the risk that his cheque will not be honoured or that it will be regarded as if written in pounds.

One day after the change of the monetary system, on Monday, [25 February] it will also be possible to start handling accounts and bank documents in shekels. However, it will also be possible to continue calculations in pounds. The transition into shekels will be made gradually.

Postal and income stamps issued in pounds and agorot will be valid. The transition to stamps of the new values will also be made gradually.

The Bank of Israel's announcement states that the change of the pound and all the steps implied by it will make the Israeli monetary system more effective. This will facilitate the adjustment of the monetary values to the changes occurring in the last few years in the price level and the exchange rates. The small coin denominations have become ineffective and their cancellation will bring about a saving 150 million Israeli pounds in the production costs of bills and coins.

It has now become clear that the decision to switch from the pound system to the shekel system was made 1 and 1/2 years ago in strict confidence. Since then, discreet preparations were made by the Treasury and the Bank of Israel to change the monetary system.

BRIEFS

SOVIET EMIGRATION--Recently, the number of Jews leaving the Soviet Union has decreased. It has been reported that in January 2,800 Jews arrived in Vienna. This is a decrease of 33 percent compared to the figures for December. The largest number of Jews leaving the Soviet Union was noted in October: It was 4,750. Last year, 51,000 Jews left the Soviet Union. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 7 Feb 80 TA]

AFGHANISTAN

KABUL SHOPS, BAZAAR CLOSE IN PROTEST AGAINST SOVIET PRESENCE

BK211322 Hong Kong AFP in English 1320 GMT 21 Feb 80 BK

[By Michael Lewis]

[Text] Kabul, 21 Feb (AFP)--Nearly all shops in the city and big bazaar closed today in protest against the Soviet presence in Afghanistan. The shut-down--almost 95 percent--followed night letters circulated in the city by Moslem rebels. Many shops were boarded up or had iron grills across them, indicating the shut-down could go on for some time.

This AFP correspondent saw security policy trying to force one shopkeeper to pull down the boards from their premises. An angry crowd gathered trying to stop them. Security policy and uniformed police were everywhere in the city trying to persuade shop keepers to reopen, but they were having little success.

Observers noted that today is exactly 2 months since the first reported Soviet troop crossings into Afghanistan.

The atmosphere in the capital is now electric and the slightest incident could spark off widespread disorders, observers felt. Soviet troops were more in evidence today but were keeping in the background, leaving the Afghan Army and police to do the "persuading."

A worried governor of Kabul was spotted in his chauffeur-driven limousine seeing for himself the extend of the shut-down.

Today's bazaar strike in Kabul is the first major example of civil disobedience in the capital, and the strength of the response has surprised many observers. It follows campaigns already launched in Qandahar in the south and Herat in the west. But a strike in the capital is considered much more serious for the already beleaguered Babrak Karmal regime. Faced with a deteriorating security situation throughout the country the regime can ill afford to see the capital turn openly against it.

HUNGARIAN CORRESPONDENT INTERVIEWS GENERAL 'ABDOL QADER

LD210233 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2120 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Miklos Keleti report on Afghanistan]

[Excerpt] The situation in Afghanistan is relatively quiet at the moment, even in the critical border area. However, the explanation for this is to be found primarily in the weather. Once the snow melts in a few weeks' time, large-scale guerrilla actions are sure to begin. One cannot be certain as yet how far the Afghan Army can be restored to its former strength by then. Thus the military test of the new regime is yet to come.

It was primarily to gain information on these matters that I interviewed Gen 'Abdol Qader, a member of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council. 'Abdol Qader played a leading role in the events of the past few years in Afghanistan. He led the military takeover which resulted in the proclamation of a republic in 1973. The role of the air force, which was under his command, was decisive in the 1978 leftwing turnabout as well. Soon after this he was imprisoned by Amin. He regained his freedom after the events at the end of December.

My first question was: What is your present role in the Revolutionary Council? [begin recording]

[Qader--in Russian with Hungarian translation superimposed] I help the Ministries of Defense and Interior. The Revolutionary Council is endeavoring to coordinate the activities of these two institutions to the maximum extent. This is because the defense of the revolution involves both internal political tasks and military measures in the fight against external intervention.

[Question] What is the present condition of the Afghan Army? How far is it able to carry out its tasks?

[Answer] I must tell you that during Amin's rule the morale of the army deteriorated considerably. The purges led to the death of many trained officers and commanders. Many were imprisoned. The soldiers did not like to fight against their own compatriots. The attempt was made to defeat the forces which turned against the revolution by the force of arms alone--but there were political means at hand as well. The result was that many ordinary soldiers joined the counterrevolutionaries.

[Question] Could you tell me exactly how many officers became the victims of Amin's purges?

[Answer] I myself spent a year and a half in prison. Many people come to me now to ask me to find their lost relatives. Unfortunately, they will never return to their families. I cannot give a precise figure, but we do know that more than 2,000 members of the People's Democratic Party lost their lives. There were many army officers among them.

[Question] In what form is cooperation between the Soviet and Afghan armies being realized at present?

[Answer] The friendly Soviet Army is fulfilling an internationalist mission in Afghanistan. The answer given to your previous question shows that we need this help. Admittedly, the reorganization of the Afghan Army has begun and we are trying to solve our military tasks with our own forces as far as possible. The Soviet troops join in the fighting only where it is absolutely necessary. [end recording]

PAKISTANI EMBASSY MAKING EFFORTS FOR RELEASE OF JOURNALIST

BK211048 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 21 Feb 80 BK

[Text] According to information available in Islamabad, the Afghan Foreign Office in Kabul has informed Pakistani Embassy officials that the question of the detention and release of the Pakistani journalist, Mr Mukhtar Hassan, is receiving attention by the high Afghan authorities. Mr Mukhtar Hassan, who left for Kabul on 7 January, was detained by the Afghan authorities in Kabul on the 10th of this month.

Immediately after his detention the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul established contacts with the Afghan authorities and took up the matter and conveyed the concern of the Pakistan Government. The Afghan authorities were requested to arrange a meeting of an official of the embassy with Mr Mukhtar Hassan. The Afghan authorities were told that the detention of Mukhtar Hassan, who is holding a visa for the visit to Afghanistan, was in violation of the diplomatic propriety and standards of international laws.

Since the detention of the Pakistani journalist, the Pakistan Embassy has been making constant efforts through the Afghan authorities to seek his release. The help of embassies of some friendly countries, including Turkey, Iran and Bangladesh, has also been invoked, requesting them to use their good offices to secure the release of the journalist.

Our diplomatic representative says the latest indications are that there is a feeling that the efforts being made may bear fruit and Mr Mukhtar Hassan may be set free shortly.

INDIA

SOVIET DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ARKHIPOV ARRIVES FOR VISIT

BK211614 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Feb 80 BK

[Text] A warm and affectionate welcome was accorded to the Soviet deputy prime minister, Mr Arkhipov, when he arrived in New Delhi a short while ago. He was received at the airport by the union commerce minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee. The Indian ambassador to the Soviet Union, I.K. Gujral, and other senior officials were also present.

Speaking to newsmen, Mr Arkhipov expressed the desire that every possible step should be taken to further broaden the existing cooperation between the two countries.

Mr Pranab Mukherjee expressed the hope that Mr Arkhipov's visit would be fruitful.

AFP Report

OW211846 Hong Kong AFP in English 1833 GMT 21 Feb 80 OW

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 21 (AFP)--Soviet Deputy Prime Minister I.V. Arkhipov tonight expressed the hope here that his forthcoming talks with Indian leaders would help further strengthen the friendly Indo-Soviet relations.

He was talking to reporters on his arrival at the airport at the start of a ten-day Indian tour primarily to participate in the silver jubilee celebrations of Indo-Soviet economic cooperation.

Though on a different mission, Mr Arkhipov has come here closely after the Afghan-prompted visit here by his foreign minister, Andrey Gromyko, just over a week ago. Gromyko's visit was widely noted as a failure, at least in its immediate purpose, with the Soviet foreign minister's refusal to be persuaded by India to agree for withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan.

Mr Arkhipov will call on President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy and Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi and have talks with Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao, who is co-chairman of the Indo-Soviet joint commission.

Mr Arkhipov said the sole desire of both Indian and Soviet leaders was to take every possible step to further broaden the existing cooperation. Their attempt at the talks would be not only to promote trade but to cover other fields as well. "Our relations in the sphere of economic cooperation is one of the major components in the overall Indo-Soviet friendship," he said. His talks would chalk out plans for future cooperation in the light of progress already made, he said.

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN: NO INFORMATION ON U.S. TROOPS

BK 211515 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1453 21 Feb 80 BK

["Official spokesman statement on February 21"--ISI headline]

[Excerpt] Official spokesman stated on February 21 that the Government of India has no information to substantiate a PATRIOT story about the presence of U.S. troops on the Rajasthan and Pakistan border. According to Communist Party of India [CPI] General Secretary Rajeswara Rao, the story is said to be based on CPI National Council member Yogendra Nath's reported personal observation of U.S. troops across the border.

GANDHI STRESSES VIGILANCE AGAINST EXTERNAL AGGRESSION

BK211646 Hong Kong AFP in English 1637 GMT 21 Feb 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 21 Feb (AFP)--Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi today asked the people to be vigilant against external aggression, particularly naming China in this context. She referred to the Chinese occupation of large chunks of territories of India and the neighbouring countries of Bhutan, Nepal and Burma.
This was "posing a danger to our borders," reports quoted Mrs Gandhi as saying at a public meeting at Rae Bareli where a byelection to Parliament is being held later this month.

The Indian prime minister also referred to the Afghan situation and said that the Soviet troop deployment in that country was caused by Pakistan's alleged action of training Afghan rebels and sending them back to overthrow the government in Kabul.

Mrs Gandhi also spoke of various economic and other internal problems facing the country. She blamed the previous Janata and Lok Dal (People's Party) governments particularly for the worsening economic conditions and called upon the people to be also vigilant against economic sabotage.

UAE: FOREIGN MINISTRY'S BHANDARI ON FOREIGN INTERVENTION

NC211936 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1858 GMT 21 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 February--Romesh Bhandari, secretary at the Indian External Affairs Ministry, affirmed today that his "country opposes the principle of foreign military and political intervention in the internal affairs of any state. Therefore, it renews its call for the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan and the Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories."

The Indian minister made this statement at a press conference in Abu Dhabi today. He said: "India, which is one of the founding states of the nonalined movement, affirms that the Soviet intervention in the internal affairs of an independent state is contrary to the charter of the nonalined movement. All the countries concerned have an interest in the complete withdrawal of these forces," he said.

The Indian official explained the purpose of his current tour of a number of states in the area, including the UAE, Kuwait, Iran and Saudi Arabia. He said there is mutual understanding between the UAE and India regarding the international political situation. He added that his country understands the concern of the Arab states, and the Gulf states in particular, about the danger which is threatening the area as a result of this intervention.

He pointed out that India is ready, in cooperation with these and other states, to discuss ways to restore security and stability to this important part of the world.

Romesh Bhandari affirmed his country's unchanging position on the Middle East problem, which calls for the withdrawal of the Zionist aggression forces from all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and for recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. He said the present situation in the Middle East is getting worse every day, and that no significant progress has been made toward finding a just and permanent solution to this problem.

Referring to relations between the two countries, the Indian official said that these relations are excellent.

With regard to the recent measures of the UAE Government to organize labor in the country, he said he understands very well the reasons which prompted such measures.

DISSOLVED ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS MAY BE HELD IN JUNE

BK210920 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Feb 80 BK

[Excerpt] The elections to the nine dissolved state assemblies may be held in the first week of June this year. This was stated by the chief election commissioner, Mr Sakhdhar, in New Delhi today. Announcing the timetable for the revision of the electoral rolls, he said they are likely to be printed by 30 April. The elections would be held earlier if the process of printing the electoral rolls could be hastened.

GANDHI AFFIRMS NO MOVE TO DISSOLVE OTHER STATE ASSEMBLIES

BK211654 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The prime minister has said that there is no move either to dissolve any other state assemblies or to disturb the setup in the union territory. Mrs Gandhi was talking to newsmen on board an aircraft while returning to New Delhi from Rae Bareli. Replying to a question, she said she has not yet given thought to the question of expansion of the union cabinet. Asked about the finalization of the sixth plan, the prime minister said the economic situation is so bad that something has to be done first to get somewhere. We believe in prospective planning, the prime minister said. The planning commission would be reconstituted soon, she added.

Earlier, addressing a public meeting in Rae Bareli, Mrs Gandhi said that the nine non-Congress-I state governments had to be dismissed as they were not cooperating with the center. She said that the law-and-order situation in these states had broken down, and people, especially harijans and women, were feeling insecure. Mrs Gandhi asked the people to be vigilant against external aggression and internal economic sabotage. She told a public meeting in Rae Bareli that superpowers are threatening to surround the country. At the same time, the circumstances created during the 3 years misrule of the Janata Party and the Lok Dal have also to be encumbered.

Mrs Gandhi said the economic condition of the country is much more grave today than she had imagined earlier. She assured the people that prices will be gradually brought down and the economy put back on the roll but it will take some time. She urged the people to rise above the narrow consideration of caste and creed and feel proud of being Indian.

Referring to the unrest in Assam, Mrs Gandhi said the students spearheading the agitation are by and large disciplined, but they are being instigated by others. She said the interests of the people in Assam and Meghalaya have to be guarded.

CHARAN SINGH WANTS SINGLE UNITED OPPOSITION PARTY

BK211700 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The Lok Dal president, Mr Charan Singh, said he stands for a single united opposition party rather than an electoral alliance for the elections of the dissolved assemblies. Such an alliance, according to him, suffers from several basic drawbacks, but a unified party with a common manifesto gives the sense of oneness among the workers and enthuses them to work for the success of their candidates.

Mr Charan Singh gave these views in a talk with newsmen in Lucknow today. While making a strong plea for a single united opposition party consisting of the Lok Dal and what he called other democratic forces in the Janata, Mr Charan Singh felt that the new party should not be like the earlier one. Mr Charan Singh disclosed that talks are continuing between the Lok Dal and the Janata for a merger, but there has been no concrete proposal from either side. Newsmen asked him if Mr Jagjivan Ram's exit from the Janata would facilitate the merger. The Lok Dal president said: No comment.

But Mr Jagjivan Ram, on the other hand, reiterated that he is opposed to any move for a merger of the two parties. In an interview with PTI, Mr Ram expressed surprise how the Janata Party leaders could think of any such proposal when they had a bitter experience with Mr Charan Singh and some others in the Lok Dal. About his decision to quit the Janata, Mr Jagjivan Ram said he and his supporters will decide their future course of action on Saturday. They will convey their decision to the central parliamentary board and the national executive of the Janata Party meeting in New Delhi early next week. He again denied that he was planning to join the Congress-I. Mr Jagjivan Ram said that the myth of the RSS [Rashtriya Sayamsevak Sangh] having a mass-based cadre has been exploded in the Lok Sabha poll. He said surprisingly the RSS people did not work even for the success of the Jan Sangh candidate.

NEPAL

JOINT STATEMENT ON INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY'S VISIT

BK211515 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1439 GMT 21 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Following is the text of the joint statement issued on February 19 after two rounds of discussions between our foreign secretary and the Nepalese foreign secretary:

There was comprehensive discussion on the situation in Afghanistan and both sides expressed deep concern over it. They agreed that the withdrawal of foreign troops and noninterference in the internal affairs of any country constitute the essential basis for the establishment of a climate of peace and mutual trust among the countries of the area.

Both sides expressed their deep commitment to the general stability in the region, which has remained free of tension for a long time. Both sides agreed that the "call to arms" in the area was not conducive to peace and stability.

DIPLOMATS BOYCOTT SOVIET ARMY DAY RECEPTION

BK221247 Hong Kong AFP in English 0933 GMT 22 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Katmandu, 22 Feb (AFP)--All Western, West European, Pakistani, Japanese and Chinese diplomats assigned in Nepal last night boycotted an official reception of the Soviet Embassy as a mark of protest against Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

Colonel Yury P. Vetrov, the Soviet military attache, had organised the reception at a local five star hotel for Army Day. But only diplomats from Bangladesh, Burma, India besides Poland and East Germany had attended the party. The presence of Indian diplomats was distinctly marked because a large number of them attended the reception. About 400 guests were present at the reception. Among others present from the Nepalese Government were Dr. D.N. Yadav, state minister for education, and Foreign Secretary Jagadish Rana and some of the Royal Nepalese Army officials.

When asked the reason for boycotting the Soviet Embassy party one of the West European diplomats said "It seems all of us have been instructed from the respective government to boycott the Soviet Embassy parties."

PAKISTAN

KARACHI RADIO: VANCE, FRG AGREE ON AID TO PAKISTAN

BK220220 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Feb 80 BK

[Text] It is reported that the FRG has agreed to cooperate with the United States in providing aid to Pakistan. According to PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL, final shape was given to a plan for this cooperation during a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Vance and FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in Bonn.

NWFP TO LOSE SUBMARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATORS 23 FEB

BK221043 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 22 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The martial law administrator of the Northwest Frontier Province has decided to withdraw all the submartial law administrators in the province from tomorrow. However, the deputy martial law administrators will continue to function in their respective areas. The existing complaint cells at divisional headquarters and various inspection teams will also continue to function under their respective deputy martial law administrators.

FRENCH-BUILT CONVENTIONAL SUBMARINE DELIVERED

LD211445 Paris LE MONDE in French 20 Feb 80 p 4 LD

[Unattributed report: "France Delivers a Submarine"]

[Excerpt] The Hurmat (the Pride) a conventional 1,200-ton Agosta type attack submarine built at the Dubigeon-Normandie yard in Nantes, was officially handed over to the Pakistan Navy at Lorient on 18 February. This vessel is armed with four quick-loading torpedo tubes; in all it can fire up to 20 torpedoes. The Hurmat is the second in a series of two submarines of the same class; the first, the Hashmat (the Prestige) was handed over to Pakistan in 1978. The two vessels had originally been intended for the South African Navy, but France canceled the contract in 1977 after the UN embargo.